

## Cosy Carpets & Chic Curtains



Carpets and curtains are two areas of the homewares realm that you may not realise can be heavily trend driven.

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Unfairly given a 'daggy' stigma by many young people who are floorboard obsessed, carpets have outsold every other type of flooring for the last 50 years and account for more than half of all flooring purchases made each year. Carpets have also often been considered slightly 'grandma-like'. However, with the beautiful materials and unique patterns now on the market, they are enjoying a resurgence with both young and old alike.

### CARPETS

There is nothing quite like taking off your shoes after a hard days work and sinking your tired feet into luxurious and beautiful carpet. When

deciding which type of carpet is going to work in a particular space, it is important to consider the following:

1. How much traffic the area receives
2. Your home furnishings and colour scheme
3. Your budget

High traffic areas of the house (such as stairs and hallways) require a durable and strong carpet in a forgiving colour. Sisal, coir or a level loop pile in a moderately dark colour would work well in these sorts of busy spaces, which demand a resilient and practical carpet. Australia's love of neutrals extends to flooring, however hallways and other small rooms provide the perfect area to inject some colour into your scheme. Trends for 2011 include super-sized cut piles with a contrasting tone in the centre in rich reds, deep blues and vivid lilacs. Painterly patterns that allow for art to move from the wall to the floor, and stripes that see different colours and textures woven together in a single yarn, create a striking design



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“Curtains are a great way to add a splash of colour to a room.”

guaranteed to make a room 'pop'!

Like so many areas of the interiors world, we are seeing a move away from the mass produced to bespoke products, which stamp a home's individuality.

Carpets are no exception, especially in areas such as bedrooms which do not receive as much traffic and allow for a dramatic statement look to be achieved. Trends here include chunky felts, oversized loop piles and high dense twists which combine wool with a range of materials from silk, linen, cotton to even paper! The resulting look is multi-layered carpet with a dynamic and individual feel.

## CURTAINS

The tide is gradually turning and curtains are now being embraced again as a window

furnishing option after many years of taking a back seat to blinds of various types.

Curtains introduce the softening influence of curves and texture, from draping fabric and design effects introduced by prints and elaborate jacquards. This can only be achieved through soft furnishings fabrics.

Romantic style curtains are still on trend, with their light delicate fabric and neutral colour palette. These allow the natural light to shine straight in however do not provide much privacy so work best in lounge rooms and other living areas.

This year sees a return of the use of curtains to add instant glamour and drama to a room scheme. Old-fashioned pelmets are back in fashion - not only do they neatly finish off the look of curtains but have great insulating properties, reducing heat loss in winter and keeping a room cool in summer.

Curtains are a great way to add a splash of colour to a room. For a bold look there are a multitude of vivid patterns being embraced by international designers, from geometric prints to swirls and stripes, in pinks, greens,

blues and yellows, which can pack a very modern punch.

Another trend sees the use of long, sheer curtains - combine two tones of sheers in dark colours such as smoky grey and rich brown to soften sharp architectural details.

Step outside of your comfort zone and explore both carpet and curtain options when looking at redecorating your home. You are guaranteed to be pleasantly surprised with the choice and options available and the warmth and softness they can instantly provide a home environment. **P**



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