

There's no question why shabby chic design is so appealing to many. When done right, this style strikes the perfect balance between feeling relaxed and looking pulled together. It puts forth an artistic-yet-elegant vibe, plus Shabby chic style, also sometimes known as farmhouse or cottage style and very similar to French country, is a very forgiving, warm, and friendly décor style to have. Many people are drawn to shabby chic styled spaces because they not only embrace imperfection, but they celebrate them.

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While it might raise a few eyebrows, including your own, if you were to decorate your entire space in old, worn-out pieces, there's something absolutely charming in striking a balance between the beloved and historic with the fresh and new. Here are some inspiring ways to incorporate shabby chic décor into every room of your home.

Shabby Chic Entryway.

A pale blue frame is kept empty in this all-white entryway, almost taking the role of a simple piece of art.

A weathered barn door is a fantastic piece of shabby chic décor...even if it leads to nowhere. Look how pretty!

Vintage furniture items, such as this delightfully paint-worn dresser in the living room, make lovely statement pieces and provide a foundation for showing off a collection of treasures. Just try to keep the collection well-edited.

A trademark of shabby chic décor is utilizing furniture in spaces they aren't traditionally meant for. This large turquoise dresser makes a great entryway piece...with plenty of "hidden" storage.

Ornate lighting fixtures, such as these candelabra-style wall sconces, add a bit of sophistication to a space that embraces the wear and tear of everyday life. It's a balancing act, for sure.

You don't have to have every piece in your shabby chic décor looking worn out and chippy. Incorporating one or two weathered pieces into a simple living room design scheme will get the message across perfectly.

Ornate, baroque styled furniture pieces accentuate nicely the shabby chic style. Perhaps because they are so opposite – one purposefully fancy, the other purposefully humble.

However, if you've never pulled a room like this together before, it can be a little intimidating. Sometimes it's difficult to create less-structured spaces that feel more purposeful than messy.

That's where we come in. We've compiled the secrets you need to know to hack the shabby chic aesthetic. Read these tips to learn how to add the necessary structure to your design without sacrificing an ounce of that bohemian feel. Keep them in mind and you'll be able to pull off this type of look every single time.

Start with a neutral background

Since many shabby chic pieces are bold and colorful, the background for these spaces should remain neutral to balance them out.

For the record, when we say “background,” we’re talking about the structural elements of the room — features such as walls and floors that aren’t part of your personal belongings. Consider painting the walls in lighter neutral shades like white or tan and sticking to simple wooden flooring.

Keep in mind that a neutral background doesn’t have to be boring. Feel free to center your design around architectural elements like a fireplace or built-in shelving. Or consider adding an extra layer of visual interest to the walls through textured paint work.

Focus on distressed or vintage furniture

Most of the time, the “shabby” part of “shabby chic” refers to items that feature a weathered or antique aesthetic. Furniture is a great way to infuse this detail into any room.

As for how to achieve this look, you have plenty of options to choose from. You could browse around for designers that make ready-made pieces with this style or buy an unfinished model and look up a tutorial online on how to re-create it at home. However, those who don’t mind their furniture having a bit of history could also look into vintage options. Check out thrift stores or yard sales to see what unique pieces you can find.

One thing to note here is the furniture you choose should only look distressed. If you’re purchasing some new-to-you pieces to complete your design, make sure they are well put together, have all their necessary parts and feel sturdy. You can always alter how a piece looks, but there’s no point putting your time and money in to something that won’t be functional for very long.

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Add in natural elements

Spaces that feature a shabby chic design typically have a bright, light and airy feel to them. One of the easiest ways to drive home that feeling is to bring in some elements from the outdoors. If you have a green thumb, consider incorporating plants or, if you do well with lots of natural light, think about foregoing curtains in favor of simple window treatments that let in plenty of sun.

You could also think about incorporating a variety of natural materials throughout your design. You could use woods in your furniture, try out a bamboo rug or play around with a variety of clay or stone accessories like vases or coasters