

## Home Décor Articles

### Sitting Pretty: Stock Up on Premium Dining Chairs

Give your guests the best seats in the house with high-quality dining chairs. This essential piece of dining furniture is critical to ensuring comfort and support during meal times. When choosing dining chairs for your gathering space, keep these key considerations in mind:

- Don't assume everything has to match. Surrounding your dining table with different chair styles—some oak, some metal, some dark, some light—can create a charmingly eclectic effect. Just be sure the chairs are all the same seat height to keep guests on an even keel.
- Get the height right. As a general rule of thumb, you should have at least a foot of space to spare between the seat and the top of the table. Standard dining chairs are usually between 18"-19", while a typical dining table is 29"-30".
- Choose a dining table first. This makes it much easier to determine how high the chairs will need to be and what style will look best.
- Consider function, then looks. Cutting-edge, contemporary styles are growing in popularity for modern kitchens, but make sure they're as sturdy as they are snazzy. A well-built dining chair should offer heft and stability, with steady, non-wobbling legs.
- Arms or not? This choice is based purely on personal preference. Some dining chairs are designed with armrests, while "side chairs" have no arms.
- Need an extra layer of comfort? Upholstered chairs cradle you and your guests with cushioned padding, encouraging you to linger long after the last plates have been cleared.

### Get Glowing: Choosing the Right Pendant Light

Got light? The right fixture shouldn't just illuminate—it should serve as an enlightening décor element in its own right. Popular in kitchens, dining rooms, entryways, and hallways, pendant lights are inspired by traditional chandeliers, but reflect a more modern appeal.

When choosing the pendant light that's right for your space, consider the following factors:

- How big is the space? If you need lighting for a narrow hallway or a small corner nook, a smaller, one-bulb pendant is a smart choice. For larger spaces that demand more illumination, you may want to choose a more substantial fixture with multiple tiers. You may also consider mounting several of the same pendants in a straight line or staggered throughout a room.
- What's your décor style? If you're looking for something to fit a formal space, a crystal-embedded or Tiffany-style light fixture exudes elegance. For contemporary rooms, a chrome, glass, or metal pendant adds sleek appeal. Feeling bold? Choose an exotic pendant shaded in a splash of color.
- What purpose should the light serve? If a pendant will be mounted over a kitchen island, for instance, make sure it's at the right height to illuminate your prep space. When hanging a light fixture in a foyer, verify the bulbs are bright enough to cast a welcoming glow.

### **Quality, Bar None: Choosing the Perfect Stool**

Encourage guests to sit for a spell—or two or three—when you outfit your gathering spot with comfortable, well-designed stools. Whether you're furnishing a kitchen, bar, office, or den, there are hundreds of options from which to choose. To avoid becoming overwhelmed, start by asking yourself the following questions:

- Where will it be used? If the stool will be placed in a high-traffic area—say, in front of the kitchen island or in a kids' playroom—an oak wood or metal stool will provide the durability you need. For an outdoor space, consider a rugged teak or weatherproof wicker stool. A deluxe leather stool adds distinction to an upscale home bar.
- Do you want upholstery? A plain wood stool provides handsome simplicity, but if you'll be using it for everyday seating, you might want to consider choosing one with a cushioned seat and back. When selecting the type of upholstery (such as leather, canvas, or twill), consider spill resistance and ease of cleaning.
- What's the height of the bar or counter you're furnishing? Standard "bar height" stools are 30" high, and "counter height" stools are 24"-26" high. Also consider the total width of the space. For stools that have arms or are equipped with a swiveling function, you'll need to allow for more room in between each one.

## Sink into Style: Choosing the Right Bath Vanity

Seen one sink, seen them all, right? Not exactly. With today's dizzying selection of designer bathroom vanities, a sink is much more than just a functional water source—it's a high-fashion focal point. By shopping online for a bath vanity, you'll enjoy a wider assortment, budget-friendly savings, and the convenience of doorstep delivery.

In the market for an upgrade? Consider these important factors:

- **Material.** For a traditional look, solid mahogany, cherry, or natural birch wood are popular choices. If you prefer a more modern style, a glass or metal bathroom vanity adds a sleek visual appeal. You'll also need to choose a material, color, and finish for the countertops and the sink basin itself.
- **Size.** Bath vanities vary widely in dimensions. Keep in mind that a larger unit will make your bathroom seem smaller. Before purchasing a bathroom vanity, it's a good idea to find a large cardboard box with similar dimensions and use it as a stand-in to give you an idea of how much space it will take up.
- **Storage.** Most modern bath vanities will include at least some amount of storage space. Decide whether you'd like fully enclosed cabinets, drawers, open shelving, or a combination.

Of course, style is always the most important element of a bathroom vanity. At StylePath, you can explore dozens of different designs, from Old-World cabinets to sleek, modern bath vanities.

## Eat, Drink & Be Merry: Choosing a Pub Table

Who says you have to drive across town—or even down the street—to relax at a bar where everybody knows your name? With today's finely-crafted pub tables, you can create your very own private bistro right in your own home. Whether you're a sports fanatic, a wine connoisseur, or you just enjoy entertaining family and friends with some good spirits, comfortable and durable bar furniture is a must.

When shopping for the right pub table for your space, keep the following questions in mind:

- What height should the table be? Pub tables are higher than standard kitchen and dining tables. As a benchmark, most kitchen countertops are 36" high and most bar countertops are 42" high. If you already have barstools, the height of the stools will determine the height of the table. 24" stools are ideal for kitchen counter height, while 30" stools suit bar-height tables.

- How many guests should it accommodate? Pub tables range from small, intimate bistro sizes (for 2-4 people) to roomier 30” tables that have plenty of room for 4 guests to large 42” tables.
- What material is best for your bar furniture? At StylePath, you’ll find hundreds of different styles and finishes. For a traditional home bar, a solid wood pub table with a gleaming oak or mahogany finish is ideal. If your gathering spot is furnished in a more cutting-edge style, a black metal or clear glass pub table will add a sleek touch. Wrought iron is also a popular and durable choice.

### **Mirror, Mirror on the Wall**

Reflect your personal style by adding a decorative mirror to any room. As any interior designer knows, a wall-mounted mirror draws in the eye, creates the illusion of more space, and beautifully reflects light. Below are some of our favorite tips for decorating with mirrors:

- Group several smaller mirrors together on one wall to create a dramatic, cohesive effect. Or, start with a large mirror as a focal point and let the smaller ones “orbit” around it.
- To create a glowing ambiance, hang a shelf beneath a wall mirror to accommodate a few candles. The flickering candlelight will beautifully reflect in the glass.
- Hang a mirror above a console table in a hallway or sitting room, and place a crystal vase on the table with your favorite blooms inside. The combination of the reflective glass, prismatic crystal, and colorful flowers will create a dramatic effect.
- For a contemporary space, choose a modern wall mirror with an abstract flair, or a strikingly simple one framed in sleek chrome or black. If you need a finishing touch for a more traditional room, choose a mirror mounted in solid hardwood, brass, or bronze. Antique-style mirrors enhance Old World design styles.

### **You’re So Vain: Transform Your Bath with the Right Light**

Shed new light on a tired bathroom with a new bath vanity light. Updating your bath light fixture is an easy—and surprisingly affordable—way to transform a space that

is too often dismissed as purely functional. With the right light source, your powder room can go from utilitarian to glamorous!

What are the most important things to consider when choosing a bath vanity light?

- How much light do you need? A shadowy, windowless bathroom will need a brighter fixture than a room that receives a large amount of natural light. Will you be supplementing your bath fixture with lamps?
- What purpose will the bath light serve? If you'll be sitting at a vanity table applying makeup, you'll need more targeted intensity. If the bathroom light needs to illuminate the entire room, a horizontal bathroom light or bath ceiling light may be suitable. If you need a light inside a stand-up shower, a recessed bathroom light fixture works well.
- What style is your bathroom? At StylePath, you'll find a wide range of bathroom lighting designs, from antique to contemporary to traditional. Choose a bath light that complements your sink fixtures and décor. A variety of finishes are available, including brass, brushed nickel, bronze, chrome, glass, stainless steel, wrought iron, and more.

### **Resort-style Relaxation: The Art of the Chaise**

You don't have to live on the French Riviera to relax in European style. For those seeking a blend of comfort and style, a chaise lounge is a fresh alternative to the standard sofa. Inspired by the 17<sup>th</sup> century furniture designs of Louis XV, a chaise is a chair/daybed hybrid, infusing a sense of intimacy. Many of today's contemporary chaises are marked by fluid, asymmetrical lines.

Typically used for reading, reclining, and relaxing, a well-designed chaise lounge should offer ample back support and cushioning. Some may also offer armrests and adjustable reclining backs for an extra level of comfort. Wider chaises provide cozy accommodations for two.

The design and style of the chaise lounge you choose will depend largely on where it will be used. For indoors, popular contemporary chaise materials include velvet, leather, microfiber, and twill. If you plan to use your chaise outdoors, there are plenty of rugged, all-weather materials from which to choose, including teak wood, wrought iron, wicker, and rust-resistant aluminum.

Complete your selected furniture chaise with coordinating throw pillows and an end table for drinks, books, and other essentials. After just one seating, you'll understand why so many consider their chaise lounge to be a requisite for relaxation.

## **Dress Up Your Master Suite: Choosing the Right Bedroom Dresser**

If there's one piece of bedroom furniture that earns its keep, it's the dresser. In addition to enhancing your space's décor, it provides valuable storage space for the essential items you need day after day. When shopping for the right furniture dresser for your master suite, keep the following factors in mind:

- Construction and materials are key. A well-made wood dresser should be sturdy enough to provide decades of reliable service. Desirable features include dovetail joints, smooth-finished drawer sides, and reinforced legs. Premium cherry and oak are popular materials for high-quality bedroom dressers.
- Determine the amount of storage you'll need. Some dressers offer more drawers in smaller sizes, while others will have fewer drawers with larger dimensions. Higher-end dressers may offer a combination of sizes for the most versatility. Armoire-style dressers will include space for hanging garments.
- Choose a style that coordinates with your bedroom décor. At StylePath, you'll find bedroom dressers in traditional, classic, and contemporary motifs.
- Make sure the surface of the dresser is large enough to accommodate everyday items, such as jewelry boxes, charging stations, or even a small television.
- Pay attention to the hardware; ideally, the drawer pulls or knobs should complement the lighting fixtures, lamps, and curtain rods in the bedroom. Minor details like these can help to create a cohesive look.