

Creating your dream sitting room on a budget

Most of us spend a lot of time in our sitting rooms. It's where we entertain friends, relax, watch TV and spend time with the family.

Yet, when we want to spruce up this space, it's tough to make big changes without worrying about how much it'll cost. That's when small, cheap tweaks can make a big difference without costing the earth.

Add plants

Greenery is one of the best ways to liven up a space. Plant some seeds in the winter, and watch them bloom beautifully in the spring before placing them around your sitting room. You can also buy some fresh flowers every week to brighten up your space and fill the room with gorgeous scents.

Freshen with paint

This is one of the cheapest and easiest things you can do to spruce up a room. It immediately changes the mood, freshens up the whole room, and can be done at little expense.

'Borrow' from other rooms

Instead of spending money on pricey new features, stroll through your house and 'borrow' items from other rooms. Take a look at what's lingering in your attic or many in storage - it might feel new again in the light of day. You'll be surprised at how well the accessories you once overlooked will work in another space.

Bring out the books

A stack of books adds colour and character, and is a nice space-filler when you don't want to buy pricier accessories.

Re-arrange

Moving the furniture around can give your room a whole new look. Put your lamp by a window for a change or bring the seating closer together for a more intimate feel.

Get creative

DIY projects are inexpensive ways to decorate. It doesn't have to be a big project - sew a new feature into a tired old cushion or add some glamour to plain lampshades with your own creative touch.

