



**Creating Brighter Spaces
and Sizing Your Area Rug**

Sizing Your Area Rug

In a large living space, purchase an area rug that is large enough for all of your furniture to sit on and still allow you to move between and around the pieces easily. There should only be about a foot or two of rug exposed all the way around the outside of where your furniture is positioned. Typically, this calls for a 10' x 14' rug, or larger custom size. Most flooring companies will custom cut patterned carpeting for you. If you have two gathering areas in the room, use a separate and coordinating area rug for each area.

In a medium living space, where a very large rug may not fit well, place the sofa and chairs with the front legs only on the area rug, at about 1/3 of the depth of the piece. A standard size 8' x 10' rug should work well in this situation. However if the room is a little smaller, you might try to find a 6' x 9' rug. Sometimes this size is just perfect for smaller living spaces, but this size is harder to find.

In a bedroom, purchase an area rug that is large enough for the bed as well as the night stands to sit on. This will most likely need to be a 9' x 13' or a 10' x 14' or larger custom cut rug for very large rooms. If the room is a bit smaller and a larger rug interferes with the placement of your dresser, you may need to purchase a smaller rug, still large enough for the bed to sit upon, and pull the rug up to, but not under the night stands, leaving a small portion of the headboard section under the bed uncovered by the rug. (As seen in the attached photo). If you have a larger room and would like to see a good portion of the area rug exposed, slide the rug under the footboard about a 3rd of the way under the bed.

In a dining room, purchase an area rug that is large enough for both your table and chairs to be fully on the rug. This will ensure that you will not get the legs of the chairs caught on the edge of the rug when using them. A 10' x 14' rug usually does the job.

For a designer look, avoid using a small 5' x 7' area rug under a cocktail table. You want to use the largest area rug you can for each room, one that won't interfere with foot traffic or your furniture placement.

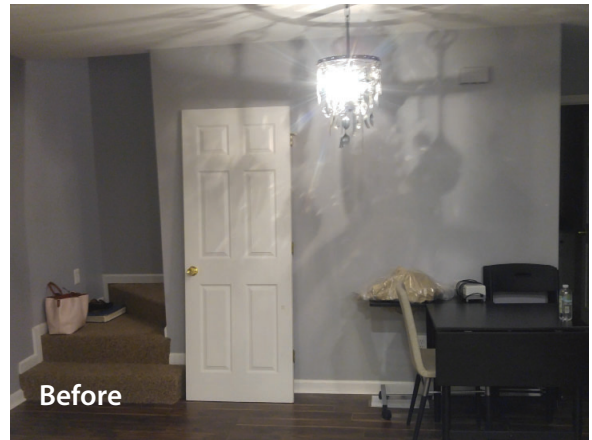


Brighten Your Spaces

The best tip for great overhead and lamp light is to use GE's REVEAL bulbs! They are a little more expensive, but well worth the investment. They filter out dulling yellow light and give you pure, clean color and clarity that will make your rooms brighter and "reveal" the true colors of your upholstered pieces, artwork, etc.

Consider changing out solid doors for half light or three-quarter light doors with decorative glass to brighten up the space.

Choose shades, rather than blinds, that can let filtered light in, but allow for privacy from the outside.



▼ **After:** recessed lighting, lighter paint and an open staircase added.



Brighten Your Spaces

Give your walls a fresh coat of paint in a lighter, neutral color, and avoid colored accent walls. Choose one of the neutral colors from your area rug or upholstery pattern, preferably the lightest neutral. If you have brick walls or a brick fireplace surround, consider painting them a color that matches the other walls, as shown in my before and after photos attached.

- ▼ **After:** updated wall paint, recessed ceiling lighting, painted hearth and fireplace surround. **Wall color shown:** Sherwin Williams - Urban Putty. **Other colors popular with clients are:** Sherwin Williams - Egret White, Agreeable Gray and Alabaster.





Introducing Priscilla Berry, Lead Designer

Priscilla has been practicing in the Atlanta area for twelve years. She is an active member of the Interior Design Society and the National Kitchen and Bath Association. With Interior Design and Decorating, Remodeling and Project Management services, Priscilla brings professionalism and customer service to a new level of expertise for any design or build-out project you have, whether the need is home or business.



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