

Timeless Interior Design

Design trends come and go, but certain elements remain timeless. If you're looking to create a space that feels current, yet timeless, consider these design features:

- Natural light enhances a space; maximize it with options such as Roman shades, mirrors, and skylights.
- Functional, well-proportioned layouts with clear pathways, appropriately scaled furniture, and symmetry.
- Original architectural features in older homes, such as stained glass, vintage tiles, or stair banisters.
- Natural materials, including granite countertops, marble tiles, and warm-toned hardwood floors.
- Neutral colour palettes, even if the "in" neutrals change over time.
- Wall moulding, like crown moulding, adds depth and sophistication, especially in newer constructions.
- Freestanding or deep soaking tubs never lose their appeal, delivering both comfort and a spa-like touch.



- Balconies or patios, when well-maintained, offer a serene outdoor retreat, with comfortable seating and greenery.

If you are budget-conscious or just want a style that lasts, sticking with trends that have stood the test of time is a smart choice.



Creating Order and Calm in Your Home

A clean, well-organized home can help keep you and your loved ones feeling more energized, focused, and at ease, instead of overwhelmed by clutter and chaos. If you're ready to get serious about home organization, keep reading.

Start with the room that is bothering you the most, or the one you use most often. If that all feels overwhelming, start small by organizing a junk drawer or shelves. Whether you are organizing a drawer or a room, take everything out, return items to their proper rooms, and declutter what you don't use into **donate, sell, or toss piles**.

As you work through the items you're keeping, **group like things together**. **Consider how you will store the items**, with some options being bins, baskets, jars with labels, pegboards with hooks, or door hooks for extra shoe storage. You can even double your hanging space in closets by linking two hangers with a pop can tab. Modular storage systems are great for custom fitting into almost any space.

Keep everyday essentials within easy reach, and store seasonal or rarely used items in less accessible spots.

Once you have everything organized, keep it that way by **making it a habit to put everything you touch back in its place immediately after use**, and revisit your belongings occasionally to declutter.

Rodent-Proofing Your Home for Fall

As temperatures begin to drop and food becomes less accessible outdoors, homes become increasingly susceptible to mice and rats. One mouse can quickly turn into an infestation, spreading disease and damaging your home. So, what can you do to help prevent this from happening?

- Seal all entry points. Mice can squeeze through a gap as small as one-quarter inch. Depending on the gap, you can use materials like spray foam, caulking, steel wool, and door sweeps to seal these areas. Check for exposures around pipes, vents, on your roof, where the ground and foundation meet, and behind cabinets and appliances. Repair screens and weather stripping if needed.
- Keep all food sealed in plastic, metal, or glass containers with tight-fitting lids. Dispose of garbage in closed bins and clean up food, water, and dishes promptly, including pet food.
- Declutter to reduce places for hiding and nesting.
- Keep shrubs and grass trimmed to discourage hiding and nesting.
- Remove any fallen fruit from trees.

Rodent droppings are a common sign of activity — dark, rice-



shaped pellets — about one-quarter inch for mice and one-half inch for rats. Other telltale signs of uninvited guests are scurrying and scratching sounds, and gnawing marks, such as on wood or cardboard. If you notice any of these signs, in addition to taking preventative measures, it's important to set traps. The sooner you act, the easier it is to stop an infestation.