WINTER HOME INTERIORS

Chill INSURANCE
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE

Welcome to Winter Interior Inspirations - an eBook dedicated to providing you with the inspiration you need to improve the inside of your home this chilly season. From the latest winter decor trends, to handy decorating tricks, to home safety tips, we have everything you need to beautify your spaces. We even take a look at some of Ireland's most renowned interior designers and explore examples of their carefully crafted work.

We have also conducted a survey, asking 600 Irish men and women their thoughts on everything to do with interior design, from colour palettes, to personal decor style, to decorating on a budget.

Want to join in the conversation? Use the hashtag **#InteriorInspirations** to get involved!

CONTENTS

Winter interior design trends

Velvet crush
Colour Block
Think millennial pink
Monochrome chic
Floral Fever
All grey everything
Mother Nature

Decorating tips

Make sure you're prepared
Cosy up with soft furnishings
Get your lighting situation just right

Upcycle your old furniture

Irish interior designers

O Donnell O Neill Design
Think Contemporary
Paul Haffey Design
Kingston Lafferty Designs

Winter home safety

Check your locks
Inspect your heating system
Make sure you're insured

WINTER INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE AN EXPERT TO DECORATE YOUR HOME. IN FACT, WITH A LITTLE TIME, EFFORT AND INSPIRATION, ALMOST ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE. TO HELP YOU GET YOUR INTERIOR DESIGN LOOK JUST RIGHT, WE HAVE SOME TOP TIPS THAT ARE WORTH KEEPING IN MIND.

Not sure which room to start on first? 43% of our survey respondents said they would focus on the living room, while 25% would revamp their bedroom and 8% would go for their child's bedroom.

Velvet Crush

This winter, it's all about velvet. With it's super soft touch and oh-so luxurious appearance, what's not to like? It's the perfect texture for the cooler months, bringing you a little extra luxe and a pinch of plush for added cosiness. To go all out with this trend, why not introduce a statement piece of furniture into your space, such as a gorgeously velvet sofa or armchair? As for the colour, that's up to you, but rumour has it that burnt orange and deep cranberry are the way to go.

COLOUR BLOCK

It may be dark and gloomy outside, but there's no reason why you can't brighten up your interiors with a little colour blocking. This trend dominated the fashion runway throughout 2017, and now it's making a welcomed appearance in our homes. Go for bold, vibrant tones such as mustard yellow, deep teal, coral pink and blue-grey to give your home an effortlessly cool, contemporary vibe this chilly season.

When it comes to picking the perfect colour palette for winter, over half (58%) of our survey respondents said they would stick to warm tones, while 16% would go for neutral shades.

Think Millenial Pink

It may be dark and gloomy outside, but there's no reason why you can't brighten up your interiors with a little colour blocking. This trend dominated the fashion runway throughout 2017, and now it's making a welcomed appearance in our homes. Go for bold, vibrant tones such as mustard yellow, deep teal, coral pink and blue-grey to give your home an effortlessly cool, contemporary vibe this chilly season.

There's no denying that feature walls are a popular design trend. 43% of those polled in our survey said they would use a secondary paint colour if they created a feature wall, while 40% would choose wallpaper and 17% would go for panelling.

MONOCHROME CHIC

If you're after something seriously sophisticated, you'll be glad to hear that the monochrome look is back. To nail this trend, you'll need to stick to a strict palette of black and white - but that doesn't mean you can't mix it up with different prints and patterns, whether it's bold stripes, striking houndstooth or unusual geometrics. If the two contrasting colours alone just aren't enough, you could restore some balance by introducing copper accents into the space.

When asked to describe their interior style, 28% of those polled said they're all about keeping their decor traditional while 15% said they usually go for the contemporary look.

Floral Fever

Florals are back and they're bigger than ever before. Forget delicately ditsy, intricately detailed designs - beautifully large and leafy flowery prints are taking centre stage this winter, so why not embrace the flower power and give your home a soft, romantic look? To make a real statement, you could go for some fabulously floral wallpaper, or if you're keen to keep it a little more low-key, you could include some flower-inspired artwork, such as framed leafy prints and canvasses.

During the wintertime, 59% of people said they prefer to focus on the interior of their home while 17% would brave the elements to improve the exterior of their property.

ALL GREY EVERYTHING

When it comes to interior design, the colour grey is here to stay. A firm favourite in many households already, this cool, soothing shade is destined to be a popular choice this winter season and beyond. Whether you go for grey-toned paint or you choose to revamp your spaces with some smoky-hued accessories, there are a number of ways you can incorporate this trend into your home.

While our survey revealed that 24% of people would choose red as their preferred colour of choice for the winter, grey (16%) and orange (16%) came in at joint second place.

Mother Nature

Take a note from Mother Nature herself this winter and turn your home into a bohemian dream. This trend is all about bringing together natural elements to create a space that's organic from floor to ceiling. From linen tablecloths, woven lampshades and jute rugs, to authentic wood flooring and wicker furniture pieces, take it back to basics and enjoy a fuss free way of living. Stick to earthy neutrals with a pop of dark slate to get the au naturel look spot on.

If you like to decorate on a budget, you're not the only one. The majority (42%) of our survey respondents would consider spending up to 10% of their annual income on their home interiors.

HOME STYLING TIPS

JESSICA POWER
WWW.JESSICALOVES.IE

NEUTRAL

I love a neutral palette whether you use white, cream, greys or browns as I find it so easy to work with. You can then build up the look you want to achieve just by using decorative accessories.

My Living room has a simple grey palette which allows me to transform the entire look of the room. I have a yellow theme for Springtime, blush pink for Summer time and red for Festive period. By changing the cushion covers, curtains and throws I can obtain 3 different looks throughout the year for minimal cost.

SYMMETRY & BALANCE

Visually, design that is symmetrical and has balance is more pleasing to the eye. With symmetry you can either use objects that are exactly the same or objects of similar height and colour to create that balanced effect.

CLUTTER FREE

Decluttering is not only good for the eyes, it's good for the mind! Chose what you would like to keep on display and store the rest in cupboards. Use a Tray to group things together and to keep them orderly.

DECORATIVE ACCENTS

Once you have a neutral, decluttered room now you can have some fun. Use decorative items such as Picture Frames and Vases to add your own personality to the design. Introduce living elements such as fresh (or faux!) flowers and candles and bring some warmth and luxury to the room using lamps, cushions, throws and rugs - but remember less is always more!

DECORATING TIPS

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE AN EXPERT TO DECORATE YOUR HOME. IN FACT, WITH A LITTLE TIME, EFFORT AND INSPIRATION, ALMOST ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE. TO HELP YOU GET YOUR INTERIOR DESIGN LOOK JUST RIGHT, WE HAVE SOME TOP TIPS THAT ARE WORTH KEEPING IN MIND.

MAKE SURE YOU'RE PREPARED

Ahead of your next home decor project, it's important to make sure you're prepared. So, to ensure that your newly decorated space is painted to absolute perfection, there are a few things you're going to need. The basics include dust sheets, high quality brushes and rollers, paint trays and masking tape. It also helps if you're dressed appropriately, so get yourself a pair of overalls to protect your clothes. You may even want to invest in a sturdy step ladder so you can get to those hard to reach places.

Why not make the most of your time spent indoors this winter and do some DIY? In our survey, 64% of people said they try their hand at home improvements when the chilly season sets in.

COSY UP WITH SOFT FURNISHINGS

If there's ever a more fitting season to go all out with the soft furnishings, it's winter. Thanks to the cooler weather, it's time to get seriously cosy at home, so don't be afraid to stock up on everything from plush cushions and thick throws to snug blankets and sumptuous bedding. Aside from creating a warm, homey atmosphere, adding these accessories gives you an easy way to incorporate a new decor theme throughout your spaces.

GET YOUR LIGHTING SITUATION JUST RIGHT

Since it's going to be dreary, dark and drab outside, it's only right that you make sure the lighting situation inside your home is just right. When it comes to illuminating your pad, go for light fixtures that will enhance your decor theme. For example, if you're about all things shabby chic, you might want to avoid slick, modern fittings and opt for something with a little more character, such as an ornate lampshade or a quirky chandelier.

UPCYCLE YOUR OLD FURNITURE

GETTING RID OF UNWANTED PINE IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS TO DO. PAINTING FURNITURE CAN GIVE YOUR PIECES A WHOLE NEW LEASE OF LIFE WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK. CHOOSE COLOUR WISELY AND HAVE SOME FUN.

BYE BYE PINE!

Materials Required:

Sanding block (medium grit)

Sugar soap,

old rag,

Undercoat and satin wood paint

(I used colourtrend Island Breeze)

STEP ONE

Clean down all the surface with sugar soap, and dry with an old cloth.

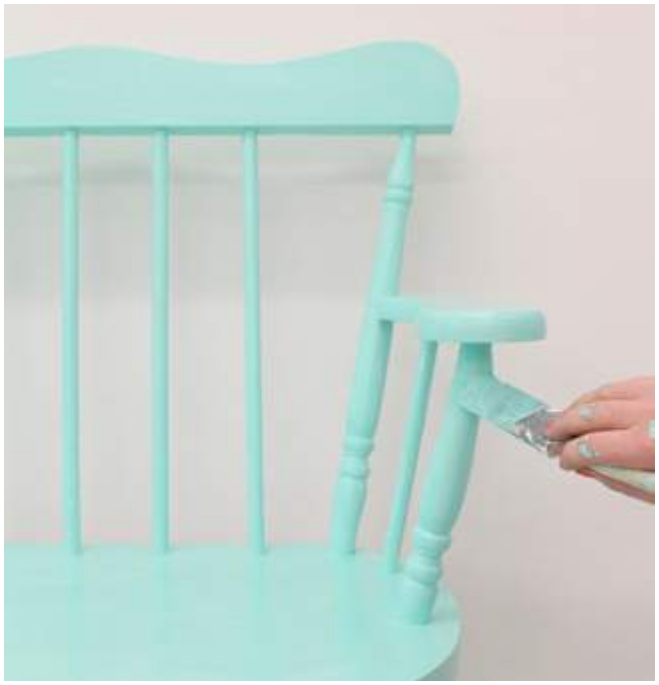
Sand all the surface with a sanding block in the direction of the grain.

With the brush attachment from the hoover, hoover up all the dust or with a dry brush, dust away all the sand. Make sure the surface you're painting on is free from dust before you start painting.

STEP TWO

When you put paint on your brush make sure it's not dripping (less is more). Turning the chair/bench upside down and painting everything that you see with the undercoat, leave until fully dry, and give the piece a second coat of undercoat.

Nice quick and light coats of paint. Sand off any lumps or drips with the sanding block before you start painting.



STEP THREE

Once fully dry, give your piece its first coat of Satin wood in a colour of your choice. Painting all the awkward areas first and then larger areas. Leave to fully dry before giving it a second coat. If there are any uneven areas or drips now is the time to sand back to make the surface smooth and tip up these areas.

Tips : Preparing the chair/bench with sanding and undercoating and using a good quality Satinwood will make your piece of furniture durable and be able to withstand everyday life, good quality satinwood can be cleaned with a cloth easily.

By Joanne Condon of www.kylelane.ie

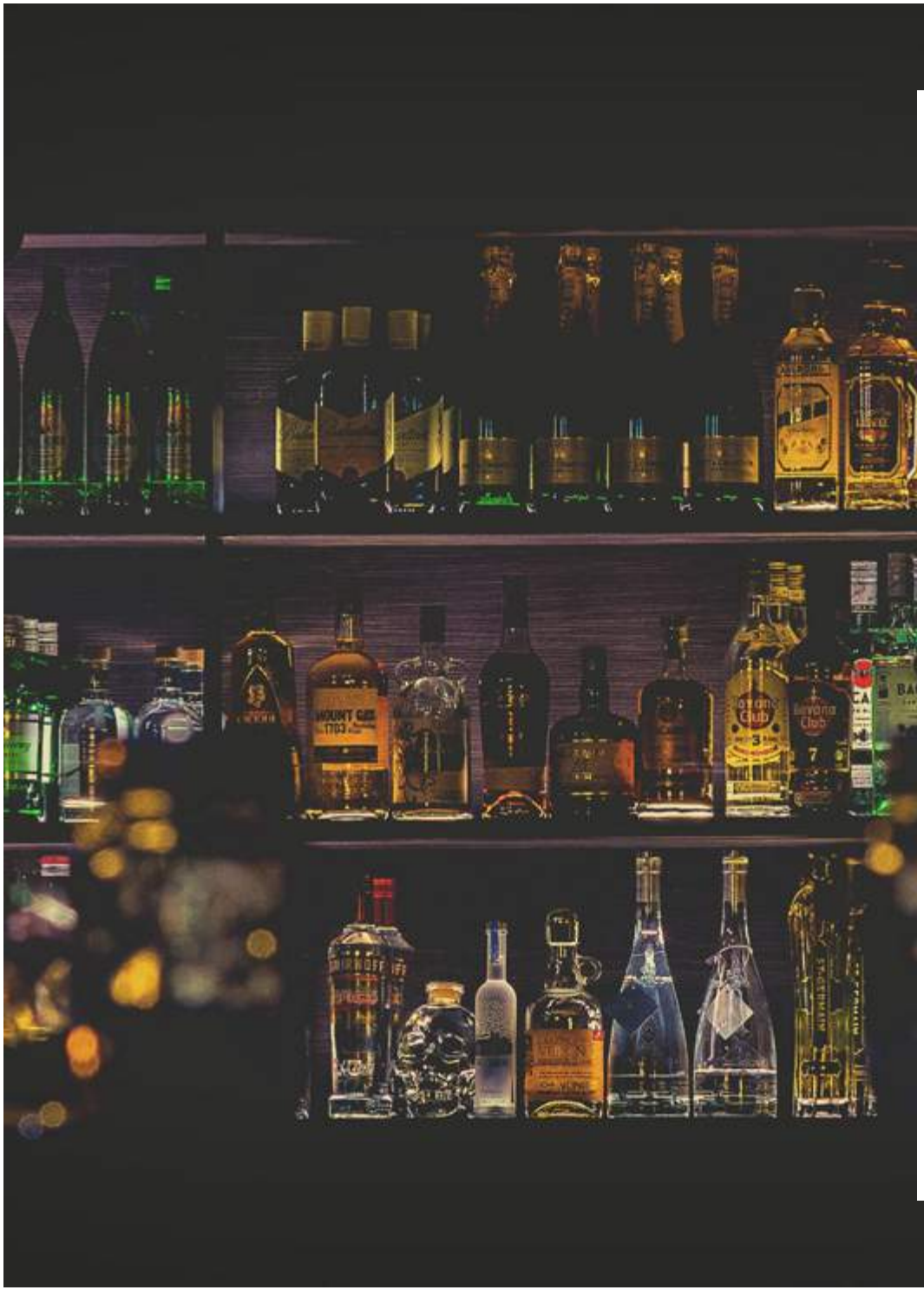
Facebook: @kylelaneclonmel
Twitter: @kylelaneclonmel
Instagram: @joannecondon

The chilly season seems to be the perfect time for an interior refresh. Of those polled, 59% said they rearrange their homes during the wintertime.

IRISH INTERIOR DESIGNERS

WHEN IT COMES TO INTERIOR DESIGN, IRELAND IS HOME TO SOME CAREFULLY CRAFTED SPACES. WHILE IT'S EASY TO MARVEL IN THE BEAUTY OF THESE PICTURE-PERFECT PROPERTIES, IT'S INTERESTING TO LEARN ABOUT THE CREATIVE MINDS THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING TOGETHER SUCH IMPRESSIVE DESIGNS.

BELOW, WE TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF IRELAND'S MOST NOTEWORTHY INTERIOR DESIGN FIRMS AND THE FACES BEHIND THEM, EXPLORING SOME OF THE SPACES THEY'VE CREATED FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT.



O DONNELL O NEILL DESIGN

Graham O'Donnell and Ann-Marie O'Neill of O Donnell O Neill Design have put together some of Dublin's most impressive interiors, including The Ivy, Angelina's, Peruke & Periwig and Sophie's. They are also responsible for creating the design for The Perch bar in Belfast, which features striking wooden panelled walls, exposed beams and an impressive open-air roof.

THINK CONTEMPORARY

Interior design duo Joanne Kelly and Anthony Buggy of Think Contemporary share a belief in creating modern, bright and bold spaces that really stand out. Some of their work includes the fun and quirky Mexican-inspired restaurant Burritos and Blues, Pinheads Pizza and Boxty House in Dublin.

PAUL HAFFEY DESIGN

Specialising in interior solutions for the hospitality industry, interior designer Paul Haffey's business is accountable for creating the ambience in a number of Ireland's most popular bars, cafes, and restaurants, including Ballo House in Killinchy, the Poachers Pocket in Lisbane and Gallaghers in Bunratty. From exposed brick, to dark woods, to low-lighting, Paul Haffey Design is all about creating cosy-contemporary spaces.

KINGSTON LAFFERTY DESIGNS

Designer Roisin Lafferty of Kingston Lafferty Designs makes it her mission to create unique spaces that are as beautiful as they are functional. Her business is responsible for the design of a variety of Irish commercial properties, including the Pot Bellied Pig Cafe in Dublin. For this particular space, the designer incorporated elements of industrial design with pops of pink for a clean, contemporary and quirky effect.

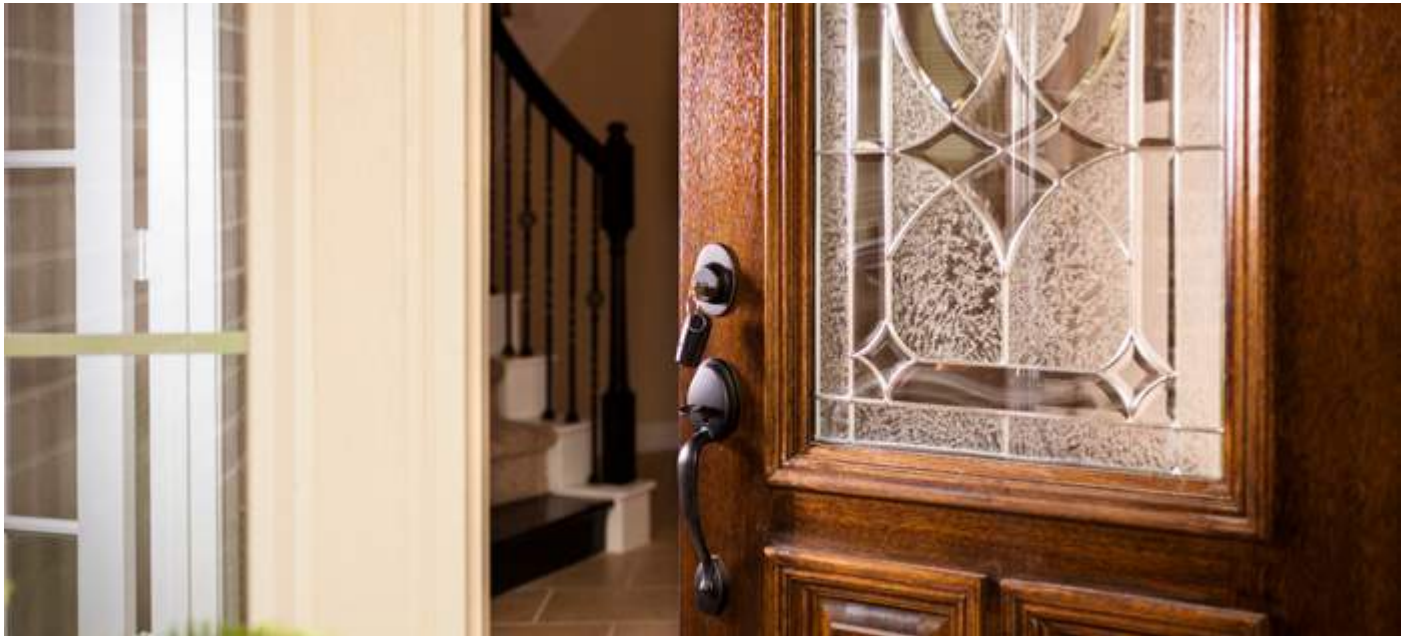
WINTER HOME SAFETY

WHILE IT'S EXCITING TO GIVE YOUR INTERIORS A MAKEOVER, IT'S IMPORTANT TO GIVE SAFETY A THOUGHT TOO - ESPECIALLY DURING THE WINTER MONTHS. SO, BETWEEN SLOSHING AROUND PAINT AND REARRANGING YOUR FURNITURE, TRY TO KEEP THESE TOP TIPS IN MIND.

CHECK YOUR LOCKS

As the winter approaches, now is the ideal time to double check that you're safe inside your home. It's important to make sure that the locks on your doors and windows work correctly, and aside from giving you peace of mind, checking that everything is secure should deter any unwanted visitors.

Our survey revealed that safety is a top priority for a lot of people. Half (50%) of those polled said that home security is extremely important to them.



INSPECT YOUR HEATING SYSTEM

During the winter months, there's no doubt you'll want to keep your home warm and cosy. However, before you crank up the thermostat, it's important to make sure your heating system is in good working order.

It's vital that your system is serviced professionally and ventilated to the outside of your property. It's also a good idea to install both a fire alarm and carbon monoxide detector in your home to ensure you and your family are safe at all times.

MAKE SURE YOU'RE INSURED

Regardless of how careful you are, there is always a risk that your personal possessions could be stolen or damaged. So, to avoid the cost and hassle of when something goes wrong, it's vital to make sure that you're suitably insured.

Home insurance protects your finances if something happens, whether it's a theft, flood or fire. As long as you have policy that meets your requirements, you won't be left picking up the bill - just make sure you read the small print so that you understand the terms and conditions of your cover.

Chill
INSURANCE
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE