

HIDE AND SEEK



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Invest in leather accents to give your home an understated yet sophisticated update

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After a long day at work, all you want to do once home is sink into your couch with something to nibble and the TV remote. Leather promises you this comfort, albeit in an extremely plush manner. Leather décor is synonymous with inimitable sophistication, the kind that allows your abode to make a statement without trying too hard.

"Leather, as a material, exudes a classy and rich look, hence making it a go-to fabric for home furnishings and décor accents. Leather is prized for its quality and can bring an urbane touch to any room," says Gitesh Agarwal, chief marketing officer at D&M India, an interior solutions firm.

Going beyond the usual

So what's new about good old leather décor, you ask? This season is all about using this refined fabric in unexpected accents around the house. "Move beyond upholstery for couches and chairs or tabletops, and find new ways to display leather in your home. You could cover your walls and floors in leather or use manufactured materials made from recycled leather to broaden the design possibilities further," says Sagharica Sawhney, owner, SJ Impex, an



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Do not restrict leather to just upholstery and furniture. Use it in accents, wall panels and accessories for an upscale touch.

architecture and interior design consultancy. She believes that leather is a great way to put nature back in homes. "You could also add leather accent chairs that tie together the rest of your décor. Choose a colour that complements the rest of your décor. Isabelle Vernhes, co-founder of My Tailor Home suggests using leather in the form of headboards, wall panels, pleated walls or even a screen. If an overdose of leather is bound to leave you overwhelmed, then turn to accessories to do the trick. Leather cushion covers, dining table mats, photo frames, trays, coasters and hooks are



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HOW TO TREAT YOUR LEATHER RIGHT

Though undoubtedly chic and durable, leather requires its share of care and maintenance over the years. Gitesh Agarwal, chief marketing officer of D&M India provides a guide on making your leather décor last long:

LEATHER FURNITURE must be placed far from windows and preferably in rooms with air conditioning.

A MILD WATER-BASED cleaner can be used to tackle spots and spills. However, oil-based stains require a harsher chemical. All these are available in the market. Conduct a spot test before using them on your upholstery.

DO NOT USE ACIDS or alkaline cleaning agents. Pure Soap Flakes is best recommended for cleaning.

REMOVE ANY DIRT by wiping it with a damp (not wet) towel or a leather care glove. Avoid rubbing the surface too hard.

LEATHER FURNITURE must be vacuumed as often as one vacuums the floors, to ensure that it remains clean and free of food or dirt particles.

viable options.

As far as the colour of the fabric is concerned, a neutral beige or brown and black are always safe bets. "They lend a luxurious, upscale look to any room. White leather adds a contemporary vibe to a space designed with traditional elements," says Sawhney.

The adventurous can go beyond the conventional colour palette. Experiment with leather in hues like oxblood, deep green, blue and so on, but restrict them to accent pieces. Metallic leather pieces are particularly popular as well and are an

apt addition for the upcoming festive season.

Room for more

Leather has long been considered a stylish choice for living and dining rooms. But look at extending it to other sections of the home as well. "Complete your TV or recreational room with a leather ottoman that offers the



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perfect place to sit down, relax, and read a book in your spare time," says Sawhney. "You can also use leather to dress closet doors. I also love the idea of using leather in kitchens because it creates a special atmosphere—a kitchen wall in leather octagons is a great way to go about it," adds Vernhes.



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