

# Put A Little Spring In Your Home



It's always refreshing to see colour after a long bleak winter. It must mean that Spring is in the air and this is the ideal time to give your home a makeover. According to estate agents, it's also the ideal time to sell, so many of these ideas can be used for that purpose too.

Work from the outside in keeping the footpath tidy and lawn mown. Touch up paintwork if needed and plant yellow flowers, as yellow is not only a happy colour but it also evokes a buying emotion. Clean your outdoor furniture and cover them with brightly coloured cushions. Wash the front door and windows and add some pots of colourful flowering plants.

Items inside which may need attention include cracked floor and wall tiles, re-grouting, patching holes, replacing washers in taps, doors and drawers that don't close properly, burned-out light bulbs, reconditioning timber floors and decking. Your home is now ready to decorate.

Think about lightening up the inside. If you are tired of coloured walls, repaint in a neutral colour. Replace dark lampshades with white or ivory ones. Remove the logs from the fireplace, give it a good clean and place an odd number of white pillar candles of different heights in the firebox. Roll up the heavy, dark rugs and replace them with sisal or cotton rugs in light, cool colours.

If your furniture is centred in front of a fireplace, think about ways to rearrange the look. Change the focal point away from the mantel to a view of a garden. Change the cushions on your sofas to those with floral prints or in lighter, fresher colours and textures.

Clean winter dust off the shelves and begin to replace objects with an eye toward keeping the look light. Bring out your floral china or set up a collection of coloured glass. Remove all books from bookcases and stack differently – colour code, vertical and horizontal or intersperse with your favourite ornaments.

Dress your bed in crisp cotton sheets in pale colours. Put away the quilts and heavy blankets and replace with a white or bright coloured coverlet. Purchase new towels for the bathroom in spring colours.

The splendour of spring is visualised by blooming flowers and light colours such as yellow, pink, pale blue, pale green and lavender. These soft muted shades suggest serenity. Bring outdoors in and enjoy spring.

**Jennifer French – Interior Decorator and Colour Consultant, Inside Out Colour & Design**  
[www.insideoutcolouranddesign.com.au](http://www.insideoutcolouranddesign.com.au)

**WIN!**

A \$250 Colour and Style consultancy service from Inside Out Colour and Design

One of Two Spring Homewares vouchers valued at \$200 each from St Ives Shopping Village



## Freshen up your home with bright yellow accents

Yellow Glass vase, Small Ego \$360 (**Intaglio Gallery**)  
 Small Melamine Cups \$2.95 each, Large Melamine Cups \$4.50 each, Melamine Plates \$8.95 each (**Red Pepper**)  
 Elume gardenia scented candles from \$17.95 - \$22.95 (**Sorrento**)  
 Earthly Possessions Frangipani shimmering powder \$16.95, Earthly Possessions Frangipani Exfoliating soap bar \$8.95 each (**Sorrento**)

## Fresh flowers all year round add an instant colour of your choice

Featured White Stock, daffodils and honeysuckles (**St Ives Village Florist**)



## Bring the outdoors in with a gentle infusion of pale greens and soft pinks

Lamp base and shade \$495 set (**Avenue Joffre**)  
 Egyptian Luxury towels in 'leaf' from \$25.95, hand towels (**Sheridan Collection**)  
 Striped glass tea light holders \$9.95 each, Striped glass votive holders \$25.90 each (**Bed Bath n Table**)  
 Small Melamine Cups \$2.95 each, Large Melamine Cups \$4.50 each, Melamine Plates \$8.95 each, Paper Napkins Paper Serviettes \$8.95 (**Red Pepper**)  
 Chatnell Dunoon Fine Bone English China, China Pink Roses Cup and Saucer \$59.95 (**Red Pepper**)  
 Silk Flowers posy of roses (**Sorrento**)

Photography by Chris Kane 0424 021 947



## Bring the aromas and color of a French Garden into your home with lavender and lilac hues and natural scents

Tasmanian Lavender dusting powder \$22.95 (**Sorrento**)  
 Living textures towels in 'dusk' from \$11.95 (face washer) to \$44.95 (bath towels) (**Sheridan Collection**)  
 Deluxe address book and journal \$39.95, Castabel Lavender fragrant candle \$29.95  
 Rapee Cushion 'meadow' in lilac \$33.95, Elume Candle in lavender fragrance \$22.95  
 Evodia Tasmanian Lavender body, room and pillow mist (**Sorrento**)



## Shake off the dark grey skies of winter and welcome fresh blue shades into your home

Ginger jar (**Sorrento**)  
 Egyptian Luxury towels in 'skylight' from \$11.95 (face washer) to \$44.95 (bath towels) (**Sheridan Collection**)  
 Silk flowers – Hydrangeas \$23.95 each, Australian made neroli and tangerine herbal soaps \$11.95 each, Anna Chandler Designs 4 coaster set \$19.95 (**Sorrento**)  
 Small blue glass \$15 each (**Avenue Joffre**)  
 Get inspired with 'Creating Garden Rooms' a book of grand ideas for small and large spaces \$65 (**Book Review**)