

Natural Lighting

Bright Ideas for Creating a More Comfortable and Welcoming Home

Natural light can change how a home looks and feels. Rooms with more daylight often seem more open and welcoming, and thoughtful updates can help homeowners make better use of the sun that is already available.

Sunlight also has practical value. The U.S.

Department of Energy says heat gain and loss through windows are responsible for 25% to 30% of residential heating and cooling energy use, which makes window placement, coverings and upkeep important parts of a comfortable home.

Natural light starts with the basics. Clean windows, trimmed outdoor landscaping and furniture placed away from major window openings can all help daylight reach deeper into a room without costly work.

DAYLIGHT BASICS

Window coverings make a noticeable difference. Sheer curtains, adjustable blinds and shades that can be raised fully during the day allow light in while still giving homeowners control over privacy and glare.

Interior color matters, too.

Light-colored walls and ceilings reflect more light than dark surfaces, helping daylight spread through living rooms, kitchens and hallways. Mirrors placed across from windows can also bounce light farther into a space.

LAYOUT CHOICES

Room arrangement can sup-

port brighter interiors. Tall bookcases, large cabinets or bulky seating set directly in front of windows can block sunlight and make a room feel smaller, so shifting those pieces often brings an immediate change.

Doors can affect light flow as well. French doors, glass-paneled interior doors

and open sightlines between shared spaces can help daylight move from one area to another, especially in homes with narrower floor plans.

Homeowners planning updates may also look at skylights or solar tubes. The U.S.

Department of Energy notes that skylights can bring daylight into interior spaces

where windows may not be practical, though proper installation and energy-efficient products are important to manage heat gain and loss.

COMFORT AND EFFICIENCY

Making the most of daylight does not mean inviting too much heat indoors.

The Energy Department recommends looking for efficient windows and paying attention to window orientation, because south-facing windows in the United States typically receive more direct sun in winter than north-facing windows.

Seasonal adjustments can help. In summer, shades or blinds can reduce overheating during the hottest part of the day, while cooler months may be a good time to open coverings and let the sun warm occupied rooms.

For many homeowners, the goal is balance. A brighter home can feel cheerful and comfortable, and small choices such as cleaning glass, updating coverings and rethinking furniture placement can improve daily living without changing a home's basic footprint.



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REAL ESTATE 101



Lighten a Room

Before starting a remodel, try the quick fixes first: clean the windows, remove heavy drapes and move tall furniture away from glass. You may gain more daylight in a single afternoon.

HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

Solar Tube: A solar tube, also called a tubular daylighting device, channels sunlight from the roof through a reflective tube into interior spaces, helping brighten halls, closets and bathrooms where standard windows may not fit.

AD SPACE