

## MAKE AN ENTRANCE

When you first walk in to your new home, is it inviting? Entranceways set the tone for the rest of the house and should create a warm reception for guests. Get creative by playing with layout, including personal décor items and avoid clutter when setting up your foyer. First impressions are lasting impressions so paying attention to details at the door will ensure your new home makes the right impact.

### OPEN UP

If your home has an open-concept design, there may not be a defined foyer. Laying down a large, durable and washable throw rug will identify the entranceway. Define the space by placing a small bench near the door or on an angle for guests to use while taking off their shoes. Include a table or install a shelf for a vase of welcoming flowers and hang a large mirror above it – also a practical choice so you can catch a glimpse of yourself before heading out!

### LIGHT UP MY LIFE

Lighting is the first thing people notice so it sets the mood in a home immediately. Place a lamp on a table or shelf for a homey impression. Place wall sconces on either sides of a mirror to create drama. Shiny services like mirrors and glasses add sparkle and reflect light to open up spaces. If your area is large enough, install a chandelier for on the spot elegance.

### BE BOLD

An entranceway is the place to play with colour. When painting, choose richer hues of other wall colours found throughout your home like in the living room and dining room. Play with large artwork and interesting accent items that tell a story and set the stage.

### BYE-BYE CLUTTER

The foyer is usually the dropping zone for outerwear and handbags. Don't let clutter be the first thing you see when opening the door. Invest in a shoe cabinet to conceal footwear if there isn't adequate space in the closet. Place a decorative basket per family member in cubbies to catch cell phones and pocket change. Set up a basket or small filing system for incoming and outgoing mail that tends to pile up.

### FAMILY TIES

Your entranceway is a fun place to reflect you and your family as well. Place a family heirloom on a table under your lamp so it can be showcased. Have your family crest or lineage framed and hang it on the wall to act as a conversation piece. Stack a few books that reflect your interests – one for each family member – on a shelf and certainly your guest will be able to relate to at least one selection.

Consider the impression you want to achieve when decorating the entranceway in your new home. Your guests will immediately get a sense of your living style and the atmosphere in your home at the door. Most importantly, you will create a warm and welcoming feel for yourself when returning home after a long day out.