



Because draperies add volume, depth and punches of color, they can have a big impact on the look and feel of any space.

Draperies

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goblet pinch pleat for a formal room to a sleek grommet for a contemporary space. When choosing your style, keep your needs in mind, since some styles are better suited for homeowners who plan to open and close their draperies. Finally, consider adding a cornice or valance for added depth and dimension.

• Choose your fabric. Hundreds of fabrics are available

in lifestyle themes, including traditional, eclectic, casual and contemporary, to ensure that homeowners can achieve the look they desire. If you want a layered look, select a sheer fabric and pair it with heavier drapery panels.

• Consider your options. Because you will want to coordinate your look throughout the entire room, try using your chosen drapery fabric for accent pillows, tablecloths or other accessories. You can also embellish and accentuate your drapery with decorative hardware to add finesse to any room. Add fabric tiebacks to update existing pan-

els.

Once you determine the right type, fabric and options you want for your new window fashions, make sure you shop around. Some stores let you take sample books home, while manufacturers let you order free fabric swatches and offer interactive displays in stores, as well as online tools — all so you can see how the product will look in your own home.

No matter what your style, you'll feel great about giving your room the finishing touch it deserves with custom draperies.

Source: Family Features.

New trends in outdoor spaces

As consumers spend more time at home, it's no surprise many are enhancing their existing living spaces. In particular, this season homeowners are embracing value-added decorating changes outdoors.

"Homeowners recognize an investment in curb appeal is a cost they'll likely recoup, so they're willing to make new purchases in this area. As they redesign outdoor spaces, many homeowners are enhancing existing decks and walkways, while others are even installing expansive outdoor

kitchens or entire great rooms," says Jack Miller, senior product manager at Kichler Lighting.

Expanding outdoor living areas means manufacturers are getting creative in product development, combining new design trends with creative lighting schemes for spaces that can be enjoyed day and night.

Among the newest trends in these areas:

• Outdoor fans— Homeowners want to enjoy their outdoor spaces without being consumed by outdoor heat. Outdoor fans cool a space while also lending a stylish accent.

These days, some fans even feature built-in lighting, so they can be used once evening sets in.

• Slate— Slate has long been used in outdoor pathways and

walkways. Now, slate and other natural materials are being incorporated into other outdoor elements, such as outdoor furniture and landscape lighting fixtures.

Popular this year are mission-style path lights that combine the richness of mission aesthetics with the beauty of natural slate.

• Green, energy-saving products— Everyone is buzzing about going green and looking for new ways to save on electricity bills. LED lighting, an ultra energy-efficient light source, uses 75 percent less electricity than typical incandescent lighting products. With this in mind, lighting companies are offering a variety of outdoor LED fixtures.

"Landscape lighting is left on for several hours at a time, so energy-efficient solutions are ex-

tremely important outdoors. Recognizing this, we've designed LED deck lights, step lights, path lights and accent lights to ensure every area of the landscape can be illuminated efficiently," says Miller. "Our LED products emit the warm, white light homeowners have come to expect from their lighting, and have the added bonus of low energy consumption."

• Lighted potted planters— Flowers and plants are great inexpensive decorating accents. They can help small spaces appear larger and add warmth to larger areas. New this season are standing lighted planters that spread beautiful shadows on path and patio surfaces and wall-mounted planters that spotlight flowers at eye level.

• Owls— It's the year of the owl. New owl-inspired decorations are making a statement indoors and out. Decorative owls have become particularly trendy in outdoor spaces, adding a welcoming, natural presence and an



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exciting accent.

As you nest at home this season, go ahead and enjoy the outdoors. With a few well-placed lighting accents, plants and decorations, your outdoor space can easily and inexpensively become a winning focal point of your home.

For more ideas on illuminating outdoor spaces, visit www.landscapelighting.com.

Source: StatePoint.

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