

Time to perfect and prepare

FIVE OF THE BEST

CUTLERY SETS



24-piece horn effect cutlery set, £215, www.grahamandgreen.co.uk



Cutipol Duna 75-piece cutlery set, £423, www.amara.com



Besart flatware, from £28, www.anthropologie.com



Aurelia brushed gold 16-piece cutlery set, £75, www.coxandcox.co.uk



Four-piece matt cutlery set in black or silver, £15, www.re-foundobjects.com

While we're not quite in the realms of sledges and sleighbells, it is definitely time to start ringing in the changes at home with a touch of frosting...



Spiegelau decanter, £39, www.very.co.uk; right, Mercury bon bon jar, £45, M&S; far right, frozen finish vase, £20, BHS



Anita droplet ceiling fitting, £59.99, Dunelm; below, over mantel mirror, crested baroque silver leaf frame, £120, Grandad's Shed, 10 Wraway Street, Brigg, call 01652 650416



DESIGN IDEAS and

As winter approaches and the days grow shorter, the way we light our homes becomes very important.

The correct lighting can provide atmosphere and ambience, as well as providing light for specific tasks such as food preparation or reading.

When designing a lighting scheme, the most effective way to achieve all of the above is to plan a layered effect. This could be, for example, recessed directional spotlights on a dimmer system set into the ceiling for general overall light, but also used to direct a beam of light on to a piece of

sculpture or artwork. Table lamps or wall lights could provide the next layer adding warmth to the room. Standing floor lights or angle poise lights provide excellent light for reading or working and form a third layer to the room. The final touch of light could be provided by flickering candles which give off a soft romantic light.

It is possible to add style and get a real wow factor by lighting specific areas of the home in a dramatic way, for example, the hallway and stairs. Halls are usually the first room that a guest steps into - a beautiful hanging pendant light can set the scene and tone for the rest of the house.

It is definitely worth splashing out on this one



Marielle bedroom suite, from £175. Next; below, Harlow furniture from, £99, and cosmic ceiling light, £99, all www.very.co.uk



Betty Jackson. Black, throw, £65, Debenhams; below, LSA paddle vodka serving set, £100, www.occa-home.co.uk



Portobello towel rack, £200, M&S



STYLE INSPIRATION with GILLY HENSON



Pendant light by Porta Romana, www.portaromana.co.uk

light fitting. Floor-level lighting on the staircase can be used to safely illuminate steps, too.

Bathroom lighting has to be planned specifically to be in accordance with safety requirements. In the UK bathroom lights must be controlled by a pull cord inside the room or a switch outside the door and have to be an appropriate distance between lights and wet areas.

Recessed lighting, and sealed units provide a safe option.

Gilly Henson is an interior designer offering advice and stocking fabrics, papers, furniture and lighting. For help or information with any carpet decisions, call 01522 536840 or visit www.gillyhensondesign.co.uk



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

REUPHOLSTER

As we look towards the festive season, thoughts understandably turn to ensuring our homes are ready to welcome friends and family. For many, that will mean replacing furniture, namely our sofas.

Rather than spending on a new piece, why not consider rescuing and refreshing current heirlooms. Reupholstering an existing piece could be just the ticket to creating the one-off piece you're searching for, as Edward Crowther, founder and managing director of Crowther & Sons, explains: "When it comes to furniture, what's inside really counts. In today's market, it is unfortunately quite often very cheap and poorly made frames, poor quality seat supports and foam padding that flattens within a very short period of time that you'll find inside."

"It is often said to me that reupholstery can cost as much as a new piece of furniture and yes this is often the case, but it makes sense to keep what you have and bring it up to date. It is a very sad situation that often fantastic pieces of furniture are being thrown into landfill as they cannot be passed on to charity shops because they don't have fire labels. It would be great if there could be some way of avoiding this and renovating and reusing those lovely old frames. There is a lot of older furniture that's in fantastic shape. It has great bones, it's perfectly strong and the frames are solid, it's just the exterior that looks old. Once it is reupholstered it can work for another 15 to 20 years at least."

Need more convincing? Here, Edward reveals three more great reasons why you should reuse your furniture...

1. Taking what's old and making it new again by reupholstering saves trees as fewer trees need to be cut down to make new furniture.
 2. Less steel has to be made, fewer natural resources are consumed with less pollution.
 3. More reupholstering materials are making the switch to green with recycled fibres being used to make new fabrics and bio hybrid foams being made out of soy.
- For further information, call Crowther & Sons on 01522 510520 or visit www.crowtherandsons.com