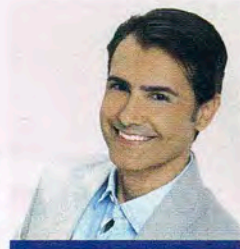


# a new year home makeover

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**Now is the perfect time to get your home ready to begin the 2013 with a fresh look before the clock strikes 12.**

As the end of the year nears, we take a moment to reflect on the past and wonder what the future will hold. It's also a great opportunity to take a close look at your surroundings. **Ask yourself: Is your home a true reflection of you and does it function for your lifestyle? It could.**



## | declutter |

**Decluttering your home is a great way to get ready to welcome 2013 with positive energy!** A good place to start is in your living room. It's the one area, in addition to a family room, where every member of your family congregates at least one time during the day. Redesigning this room can be a source of inspiration that will eventually affect the other spaces, too.

**be adventurous!  
If you've dreamed  
of a change,  
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to do it.**



## | blank slate |

Believe it or not, I like beginning with a blank slate. This means I like to remove all the furniture from the room to get a better sense of the space. This is the time to give your floors or carpet a good cleaning and also freshen up the paint. You can always **introduce an accent wall in a new color** or use wallpaper in a modern pattern creating a nice focal point in the room. Be adventurous! If you've dreamed of a change, this is the time to do it.

## | new layout |

Give the space a brand new look by simply coming up with a new furniture layout. Take it all out and look at your space, but be selective when bringing the furniture back in. Through the years homeowners accumulate a hodgepodge of pieces in a failed attempt to get organized. Learn to edit and donate the items you no longer need. If necessary, shop at clearance centers and outlets to replace old pieces with new ones without paying a higher price. **A great no-cost alternative is to give your existing tables such as a coffee or end table a facelift with metallic or high-gloss paint**, which continues to be a hot trend in home décor.

## | decorative accessories |

New throw pillows, area rugs and decorative accessories also help update your style. Finish off the living room by condensing **all the family photos onto one wall creating a beautiful gallery**. Use floating ledges and mix in frames of different sizes to display all your special moments throughout the year, while still leaving space for new memories to be made in 2013!

**Last words of advice:** Remember that the old adage "less is more" applies to home décor as well. Be conscious of impulse buying now with all the great holiday clearance sales. Even though it's a bargain price, it doesn't mean your home really needs it.