

1 Colortrend paints put to good use



2 Sanderson fabrics



5 Ian Mankin fabrics



6 Colortrend paints



# 10 *simple ways* to brighten your home

Our interiors expert **Noelle O'Donoghue** shares her 10-point checklist for a spring clean that doesn't break the bank.







Crafty cushions 3

that's uninterrupted by doors or large pieces of furniture. Or wallpaper the recess on either side of the chimney breast to draw out a deep hollow. If you have a window that is centred on one wall, use a bold dramatic pattern alongside plain curtains to pick up the colour or pattern in the wallpaper.

### 3 CUSHIONS

Add a few new cushions to a room and they will instantly craft a completely different look and feel. Just like that. Create a more luxurious feel by mixing textures and different shades. Pattered cushions will enhance a room, adding depth. To change with the seasons, simply change your cushions. For example, blue and white striped cushions against a linen suite create a fresh summer look, while a rich, red velvet cushion will look particularly festive at Christmas time.

### 4 FRESH FLOWERS

Invite spring into your home with a vase of fresh flowers and you'll immediately make a room more welcoming and homely. As well as adding tone and life, you'll introduce a lovely fragrance. Why not co-ordinate flowers with your interior colour scheme? Or add foliage from your garden to bulk up a bunch of bought flowers to make a bigger arrangement? There's no shame in buying good quality fake flowers and, when you have guests, simply buy fresh lilies or roses to create that fresh flower smell.

### 5 BED LINEN

Fresh bed linen can give your bedroom a whole new identity. Throw in matching cushions and a throw to produce a luxurious, inviting feel. Your bed should generate a soft, warm atmosphere so my advice is to keep bright colours at a minimum. Muted tones and neutrals work best to construct a calming area, conducive to relaxing and sleeping.

### 6 WOODWORK

Paint your woodwork. People are often afraid to cover up natural wood but by doing this you will completely refresh your home. Varnished pine will age to an ugly orange over the years and this tangoed look is difficult to co-ordinate with new colour trends. When doors, panelling, architrave and skirting are all painted the same colour, a whole scheme



Fresh flowers and Sanderson fabrics (Cushions €30 each or €50 for a pair)

### 1 PAINT

Paint is the quickest and easiest way to freshen up your room. It can transform the atmosphere and create an entirely new look for as little as €65 or less. Parsons Stone from Colortrend is a popular colour and will add a contemporary look to any home. The colours used in this beautiful hall are from the Historic Collection. To recreate the look in the picture opposite, use the following Colortrend colours and finishes:

- Top section (of the wall) is Historic Icehouse in Luxury Matt (5l €64.95)

- Lower section uses Historic Parsons Stone Luxury Matt
- Architrave and skirting boards are Parsons Stone in Antique Eggshell
- Door and coving are Historic Milk Teeth in Antique Eggshell (1l €24.95)

### 2 WALLPAPER

A bold pattern on a wall really adds drama to a room and will liven up an otherwise dull or lifeless scheme. Wallpaper can quickly and easily create a feature in a room and add a focal point. Choose an accent wall

### CREDITS

All fabrics and blinds available from Noelle Interiors, Daingean, Co Offaly  
Tel: 057-935-3577  
or 086-302-5066  
www.noelleinteriors.ie



→ will work together. Your rooms will be brighter, lighter and feel much bigger. In image 6, the walls are Dining Room Red and Bantry Linen (51 €59.95). Architrave and skirting boards are Almost White in Satinwood (11 €19.95) – all Colortrend. Old rustic tables and dressers can be given a lime-wash effect to create that sought-after French Provence look. A lick of paint can transform pine tables and chairs to create a sophisticated kitchen. Try a new shade such as Colortrend Salters Stone – a light grey – instead of the usual yellow/cream.

**7 WASH YOUR WINDOWS**

Sounds a bit obvious, but it's so easy to do and free. By cleaning your windows, inside and out, they will look clean and fresh, yes, but more importantly, more light will be able to enter the room. If you haven't washed your windows in some time, you'll be surprised by the difference.

**8 TABLE CLOTHS**

Invest in a pretty table cloth or oil cloth to completely transform your kitchen or dining room table. An oil cloth will add colour but it's practical too, as it protects your table, making messes and spills easier to clean. Beautiful floral patterns can add a rustic country kitchen look. Not a fan of patterns? Try a linen table cloth but to avoid the extra maintenance, look for new ranges of oiled linen table cloths.

**9 CHANGE THE CURTAINS**

I always advise my clients to replace discoloured or dated curtains with roman blinds. Roman blinds are cleaner, crisper and more practical in rooms such as a kitchen or bathroom. By fitting architrave around the window, you can frame your blind nicely, and this will add a focal point to the room and finish it with a stylish touch.

**10 OUTDOOR COLOUR**

With the dawn of fresh spring evenings, make the best of the outdoors by making cushions and seat pads to cover up tired and worn wooden furniture. Not alone do cushions make the seats more comfortable but the patterned fabric will add bright splashes to your patio or deck, adding colour and sunshine to an otherwise dull day. Keep a waterproof storage box on the patio to keep cushions dry. ☺

