

# Decorating tips for newlyweds

(StatePoint) For most newlyweds, getting back to real life after the honeymoon means turning a house into a shared home. But merging the furniture, housewares and artwork of two individuals is not always a cakewalk.

Here are some ideas that will help keep you both happy as you plan your new home and future together:

## Choose Your Battles

When merging belongings you may not agree with each other every step of the way, but it's not worth picking a fight. Choose what is most important to you so your protests carry more weight.

For example, it's okay to put your foot down when it comes to painting an entire room a color you detest, but it may be better to let it go if you're talking about the color of the bathroom rug.

Likewise, let your spouse have his or her way when you recognize what is meaningful to them. You may hate the rocking chair in your living room, but if it belonged to your spouse's great-great-grandmother, you better learn to love it.

## Something New

Thinking of your combined belongings in terms of "ours" and not "mine" is a transition that you can make smoother by picking new things out together. Even if your home is fully furnished, it doesn't hurt to invest in at least one new side table or a pair of lamps in which you can take pride in as a couple.

What you put on your walls can also help you bridge the style gap. "Choosing art together is a great way for new couples to decorate their home as a team," says Mariam



Naficy, CEO of Minted.com, an online stationery and art store. Find art prints you both love from an online site like Minted.com, which allows you to browse a wide variety of designs from independent artists.

You can give art even more meaning by presenting wedding art to your spouse as a gift to remember your big day.

## Divide and Conquer

No matter the size of your home, each of you should have a space

that you can call your own and have the freedom to take whatever decorating liberties you please -- be it an entire room of the house, or simply a corner. Living together doesn't have to mean forfeiting your individuality.

If you and your spouse have different approaches to home décor, don't let the process be a source of stress. Instead, use the experience as a first opportunity to collaborate as a married couple.

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