

Picking out the perfect chair



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It seems simple enough — just pick a chair!

But selecting the perfect chair for home can be more challenging than it first appears — to get the right shape, size, comfort, style and colour. To begin, a chair can be used in multiple areas of your home so determining exactly where a chair is to be used primarily is key to narrow the possibilities.

For instance, a chair for a dining table would likely be a poor choice for the family room as a long term option. Dining chairs are higher, firmer and more narrow than a lounge chair.

Dining room chairs aside, it's the lounge chair where the options can be many! If you plan to watch television in this chair, consider one with full arms that are of medium height and with a fairly high back to support your shoulders and neck.

For a chair that will be located between a family room and a kitchen, ensure it is attractive from both the back and front.

Consider upholstering the back in a different fabric than the front of the chair to make it interesting in all directions. Or select a chair that swivels so you are able to turn easily from one room to the other.

For a more formal chair, select one that has a firmer seat and fitted back. This means no loose back pillows to keep guests sitting more upright. Consider a wing chair as an option. Although this is a style that's been around for ages, it still holds its own and there are numerous contemporary versions of this chair available. For a room where you really want comfort, make sure the chair has arms! It sounds silly but armless chairs are truly uncomfortable for many people who just don't know

where to put their arms. Save this style of chair for a bedroom or really casual space. For durability consider leather or fabrics with high abrasion numbers. Try not to select cotton to cover chairs as it will eventually tear over time. Polyester blends look good today and offer a variety of textures and good wear. And finally, for comfort, invest in good quality foam or feather pillow interiors. The better the foam, the longer it will last!

And a well-built chair can see you through a life time! Buy well and buy a classic style. It will do the job always!

Speaking of comfort, sometimes the most comfortable chair is the old one in the corner that is no longer looking quite as nice as it once did.

You can either donate well-loved furniture pieces to the Furniture Bank, a fantastic charity helping those in need furnish their newly acquired homes or update it by adding a new fabric and finishing touches.

If you love refurbished furniture, you should check out the Chair Affair happening Friday, Oct. 30 at the International Centre.

All proceeds from this amazing event go to The Furniture Bank and visitors

are invited to bid on refurbished prices of furniture all designed by famous local designers.

— *Designer, spokesperson, regular guest on the Marilyn Denis Show, author and television personality, Jane Lockhart is one of Canada's best-known experts in the world of design and colour.*

Come to Furniture Bank's Chair Affair Friday, Oct. 30 for your chance to bid on Jane's unique creation, designed especially for the event. To learn more about the Chair Affair or to purchase tickets, visit www.furniturebank.org/chairaffair.

For a more formal chair, select one that has a firm seat, fitted back and no loose pillows. This helps to keep guests sitting more upright.
Photo by Brandon Barre.



Determining exactly where a chair is to be used helps to narrow down the possibilities. Photo by Gillian Jackson.