



Up the feel-good factor

Add a little more 'mmm' to these winter months, with touchy-feely soft fabrics and festive trimmings that make your home more welcoming. Read on: these style tips are so good no one will want to leave...

1. Decorate your mantelpiece, or the inside of your front door, with feathery Christmas trimmings – House of Fraser sells a dramatic black and gold feather wreath in the Linea range. Or, throughout winter, give pride of place to a set of angels wings from the quirky homes store Pedlars (01330 850400; www.pedlars.co.uk). Wrap carefully in soft tissue and a protective box and you will be able to use it year after year.
2. Fill your clothes, linens and towels with uplifting fragrance from new Lenor Infusions collection with Touch Effects. Thanks to new Touch Effects technology little bursts of fresh, invigorating fragrance are released with every touch, and clever Perfume Micro Capsules produce Lenor's longest-lasting fragrance. There's something so comforting about sinking down into fresh, scented sheets for a night's sleep. Try Lenor Infusions Breath of Fresh air, which revitalises your senses with a crisp and sparkling freshness. Use for hot water bottle covers and washable net curtains, too.
3. Breathe new life into old furniture with soft covers. Reupholster a worn armchair in a vintage tartan blanket. Plaid is one of this season's key interiors trends, and you'll have warm softness that will stand the test of time. Or try deliciously dark denim for a touchable texture.
4. Use long bolster cushions as gorgeous-looking draught excluders.
5. Make glossy green arrangements with evergreen leaves and hedgerow berries. And spike your lustrous display with white or red florist's roses. Woody stems will absorb warm water more quickly than cold. Keep your flowers lasting longer with a teaspoon of sugar and a teaspoon of bleach added to the water.
6. Feel awkward about asking guests to take their shoes off as they walk in your house? Leave a line of brightly coloured leather slippers by the door to encourage people to swap to indoor footwear, and save your carpets and floors from ground-in dirt.
7. Wash fleecy throws, cushion covers and washable loose covers in new Lenor Infusions with Touch Effects to keep your whole home feeling refreshed. Its perfume micro capsules are released with every touch, uplifting everyone's spirit! Pull newly washed covers back on while just slightly damp – they will stretch back in to shape better.
8. Invest in two metres of washable linen in a colour you love, and make into napkins for your dinner table. Wash in Lenor Infusions with Touch Effects, and fresh fragrance will be released as they unfurl their napkin at the start of the meal.

9. Give a cool wood or stone floors softness and natural warmth with a felt rug. Or in the New Year why not learn to make your own: sign up for a felt craft course and make vividly coloured felt rugs. Go to the Hot Courses website for details of an evening class near you (www.hotcourses.com).
10. Spend a long winter's evening stitching red and sage green felt love hearts stuffed with cotton wadding and lavender. Sew on ribbons and decorate each door handle with one.
11. Pin a layer of lace over the outer side of a shower curtain to soften a clinical white bathroom.
12. Adorn plain-wrapped Christmas presents with a strip of sumptuous fabric and a matching ribbon. The fabric and ribbons can be recycled as book marks or for other presents.