



**13 Pharmacy-style lamps work with any style and in most rooms. Bonus: No shades or even much space needed.**

Barometer floor lamp, \$50; [ikea.com](http://ikea.com)

**14** Find out when your favorite discount stores stock new items, then shop on those days. Timing is everything at off-price retailers such as T.J. Maxx and Marshalls.

**15** "If you can afford to change only one thing, let it be at the windows. Windows are like your room's eyes. They look fine natural, but a bit of mascara always makes them pop. Hang curtains at ceiling height, even if your windows don't extend that far, and choose a bold color or pattern."

**KIM MYLES**  
Designer,  
HGTV's *Myles of Style*

**16** Ungroup matched sets. Identical end tables, nightstands, or lamps can make a room seem like a furniture store. Swap out one of the pair for something in another room. But some things are better together. Framed photos or pottery, for example, have more presence and seem more like a collection when they're not scattered around.

**17** "I get all of my bamboo Roman shades from Target. I've been using them for years and they're on every window of my house and office."

**GRANT GIBSON**  
San Francisco designer

**18** Recruit a serving tray to display accessories or to turn an ottoman into a coffee table. Melamine tray in kiwi, \$30; [zak.com](http://zak.com) for stores



**19** Get the look of big art with small pieces you already have. Gather different sizes and shapes of paintings, plates, and mirrors to mass a wallscape above a sofa or bed. Test the arrangement on the floor, then hang the collage. Spare the wall excess nail holes by using adhesive-backed hooks for lightweight items.

**20** Fall for a pricey fabric? Buy just a yard and turn it into pillows or a table runner. Or, drape it over the back of a headboard, sofa, or chair. You'll get guilt-free impact. For more bang for your buck, check the graphic fabrics, many less than \$10 a yard, at [reprodepot.com](http://reprodepot.com).

**21** Buy a big woven basket. For shoes in the entry or newspapers in the living room, it's good-looking storage you can leave out in the open. Michaels has a good selection of baskets—use the coupon that's in most Sunday newspapers.

**22** "Warm up white walls with a neutral beige. It's like brushing bronzer on pale cheeks—instant glow! Neutrals won't overwhelm the color-phobic or compete with bright-color furnishings."

**ELAINE GRIFFIN**  
New York City designer

**Elaine's Go-To Neutrals**

- Muslin (OC-12, Benjamin Moore, right). "One of the most perfect café au laits that exists."
- Antique White (SW6119, Sherwin-Williams). "A barely-there classic; just a hint of tan."
- Sandstone Gray (7004-18, Valspar, Lowe's). "Genius. Rooms with cool blues and greens or lots of beige upholstery often look better with a grayish neutral like this."
- Sisal (NA10, Ralph Lauren, Home Depot). "A darker taupe that's beautiful on walls."

**23** A folding screen does a lot—defines open areas, adds interest, hides clutter.