

PRESS RELEASE

Cosy and comfortable

With winter truly upon us, cosy living is at the forefront of most people's minds. We speak to Claire Gibson from leading furniture manufacturer, La-Z-Boy, who offers some tips on how to make your living room a cosy and more inviting space.

19 July 2018, Johannesburg: When hosting friends and family, the living room is often used as a gathering point and a place where you can sit back and relax with friends and family. However, it is also the preferred spot we gravitate to when we just want to stay at home, chill out in our most comfortable clothing, and enjoy some quality time on our own or with our loved ones. "No other room in the home brings as much warmth and pleasure as the living room – it's the one place where the whole family can come together to entertain or to relax. As such, it is imperative that this room is as cosy and inviting as possible – offering the ideal location to enjoy time with friends and family, or for curling up and chilling out."

Claire offers her top 7 tips for creating the ultimate cosy living room space:

- 1.) **Clever use of colours:** "Be experimental with colour," advises Claire. Warm shades, such as reds, oranges and yellows for example, can create a space with a deeply comforting mood, while cooler tones, such as pale blues, greys and pinks, can infuse a space with a calm and soothing feeling. For a room that feels opulent, indulgent and luxurious, try and include deep shades, such as purples, dark greys, emerald greens and gold tones for example.
- 2.) **Playing with furniture placement:** It is essential to anchor any standalone or "floating" furniture in order to make the area seem more structured and substantial. "A solitary sofa standing in the middle of the room makes the space feel like there is something missing. Be sure to pair it with a sofa table or a pouf for example. Remember that the paired table or pouf should be slightly lower than the sofa back, otherwise it will look disjointed," says Claire.
- 3.) **Layering with texture:** There is nothing quite as inviting as soft, warm textures to sink and snuggle into, especially if the weather is cold outside. You can create maximum appeal by layering the textures in the room, says Claire: "Combine mixed throws, scatter cushions, and other soft furnishings in various textured materials – think leather, velvet, silk, faux fur, chunky knit and felted fabrics... It's all about sticking to the colour palette, but adding interest with contrasting textures that offer juxtaposing visual and tactile appeal."
- 4.) **Let the light shine down:** The benefits of layered lighting is key to creating a cosy space, notes Claire: "Lighting plays an enormous role in creating a mood in any room, including the living room. The trick to a successful lighting scheme is to create various layers of lighting that can be controlled independently from one another. A central light fitting can stand as an interesting feature light, but you should also add ceiling

downlights for overall ambient lighting, as well as table and floor lamps for added task and mood lighting. Also, think of adding dimmers, so that you can control the brightness of the lights. Candles are another great addition to any room –there is nothing as cosy as the warm, gentle flicker of a lit candle!”

- 5.) **Fun with floors:** Cosiness is directly associated with soft surfaces and materials. This makes sense when you think of sofas and soft furnishings, but it should also hold true when it comes to flooring. Even though hard flooring such as wooden flooring, laminates and tiles remain increasingly popular, it is a good idea to add the soft touch in the form of beautiful rugs in order to make your living room snug and inviting. Claire says that even if you have wall-to-wall carpeting in your living room, rugs are still a good idea, as they protect the carpeting, and they can add to its overall visual appeal.
- 6.) **Loving the layout:** The way you position your furniture can have an enormous impact on how the room feels, says Claire: “Avoid placing your furniture and seating right up against the wall – instead, try and leave a few centimetres of ‘breathing space’ between the walls and the furniture. If your living room is really large, then be sure to fill the gaps between the major pieces of furniture with other pieces, such as poufs, side tables, ottomans, and the like. You don’t want your living room to feel too crowded, but you don’t want it to seem too spartan either.”
- 7.) **Finding a feature:** It is always a good idea to have at least one main focal feature in a room. In the living room, it is usually the TV or the TV unit. However, Claire says that to create a sense of cosiness, it is a good idea to make a fireplace a second major focus in the room, and position the seating facing towards it. If you don’t have a fireplace, then be sure to position the seating so that they face one another for a more sociable and inviting layout.

ENDS

Released on behalf of La-Z-Boy (www.la-z-boy.co.za) by The Line (www.theline.co.za).