

DECORATING DIY

summer fabrics

Just as you switch up your wardrobe when the warmer weather arrives, a few simple textile updates can help lighten your interiors

Dress the bed Choose the right fabric for your bedding to stay cool at night and get a better night's sleep. Sheets made from lightweight, breathable fabrics, such as cotton or bamboo, will help you wake feeling fresh, while moisture-wicking options are ideal for sweaty sleepers.

Find the right filling Pack away your feather down and polyester doonas and choose a lighter filling for summer. Cotton retains very little heat, so it's great for warm nights, or look for a wool quilt. Wool helps regulate body temperature – handy if your sleeping partner feels the cold.

Use cushions for colour Brighten up your home's look and feel come summer with a few new cushions. Swap wool, leather and faux-fur covers for cotton and linen fabrics in neutral shades or tropical prints. We tend to entertain more in summer, and large floor cushions can also serve as back-up seating for guests.

Don't forget the floor Natural fibres are great summery options for rugs. Bulky fabrics like wool have a more wintry feel, whereas bamboo and jute work well in a sunny room, and thanks to their durability, can be placed in high-traffic areas like hallways and living rooms. As they're easy to dye, you'll find a variety of colours.

Frame your windows Replace heavy, wintery curtains with something sheer to let the breeze blow in – think feather-light voile or linen in pale shades to reflect heat. Sheer roller blinds allow you to see out while blocking harsh rays.

Accessorise with a throw While it seems counterintuitive to use throws or blankets in summer, there are times when a thin covering is required (movie nights on the couch with the aircon blasting, for one!). Soft and lightweight, bamboo is breathable and looks great draped over a lounge, ready to adorn a cold shoulder. ☉

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style tip Nothing says summer like fabrics and soft furnishings in white, cream or pale grey. Accent with natural timber and cane furniture

3 updates to try

Gone troppo
Outdoor Palm hessian cushion, \$59.95, TK Maxx.

Sheer magic
Belgian linen flax sheer curtain (1.27m x 2.44m), \$104, Pottery Barn.

Take the floor
Ubud basket weave jute rug (2.2m x 1.5m), \$267, Miss Amara.