

# Winter Begins Saturday ~ It's Time to Brighten Up Your Home

With winter officially beginning this Saturday, Dec. 21, I think it's time to share some great ideas for folks who struggle with the colder, grayer days.

As a Realtor in the South Denver Metro area, I take great pride in making sure that people are happy and comfortable in their homes. When the cold arrives, some folks need to take some extra steps to keep their spirits up, especially those who have to drive to and from work in the dark.

So, I touched base with a few interior designers to see what suggestions they had for brightening up homes and wintertime moods. One of the major suggestions they made is to lighten up the home – either through actual light fixtures or paint.

They say to turn on the lights and add some bright colors to your walls. If painting a room seems like too much work, add some bright artwork, colorful table lamps, or decorative accent pillows and throws.

In addition to regular light fixtures, think about using accent lighting in small rooms to make them seem larger or in narrow hallways to add warmth. Use full-spectrum light bulbs instead of incandescent bulbs to get an even brighter light that is similar to sunlight.

Other ways to add pleasure to your home space during the winter months include:

- Using scented candles. Not only do the candles provide a beautiful fragrance, they also add a warm, inviting glow.
- Letting the sun in on sunny winter days, which we have a lot of here in Colorado. Keep your window treatments open and allow the warmth of the sun into your home.
- Adding live plants to your home décor. They will make your space more inviting, colorful and even healthy. Your local nursery will know what plants thrive best in the low light conditions of wintertime.

Don't get stuck thinking about the gray skies and long, dark days. Make your home a welcoming sanctuary for you at the end of each workday. Hey, here's an added thought: Create a space where you can put a comfortable armchair, make it a nice, quiet place where you can sit and enjoy a good book while sipping a cup of cocoa or glass of wine. Don't forget to add the lighting and a soft throw blanket.

If you want help finding a home you can enjoy year-round, please give me a call at 303.810.5757.