HeartWork organizing

TV Guide

It's moved about a dozen times, but the switch to digital televison is finally here. Most of us won't need to do or notice anything at all, since we're already receiving a TV channels through something other than the airwaves. And most TV's will continue to work just fine, so chances are you don't need to invest in a flat screen if that's not in the budget.

But if a new, sleeker model is in your future, here's a list of pointers just for you.

http://www.prlog.org/10184024-the-basic-component-of-home-theater-decorating-is-the-tv.html

Coming Attractions

"Where do I put the new TV?" In a room with a fireplace, there are two strategies. Locate the TV near the hearth so you can enjoy both, or on the opposite side of the room to allow you to create two distinct areas and focal points. Which one you chose will depend on the size of the room, who uses the room, and how often.

How big should your TV be? I love big TV's, especially my neighbors' when I'm out for an evening stroll. Their huge screen means I can scan the weather or scores as I walk by. Seriously, there are some rules of thumb. The distance from the TV should be one and a half to twice the size of the screen. So viewing distance from a 46" screen should be about 6 to 8 feet. If your room doesn't allow for that distance, a smaller TV may be more appropriate, unless your room is really meant to be the corner Bar & Grill.

Angled furniture in a room can be a way to make the space more cozy and interesting. However, it is important to keep key TV seating in a fairly straighforward position relative to the TV. Not every chair needs to be front and center, unless you are going for stadium seating.

Last week I worked with a couple struggling to maximize their thirty years of treasured belongings. We decided that a beautiful traditional sideboard could be the perfect spot for a new flat TV. Because the newer TVs are slim and lighter, there might be buffets, sideboards or other treasured heirlooms that can offer both a perch for the TV and storage for games, movies and remotes. In the header image to this email, you can see that we used a traditional parson's bench as a unique stand for a thoroughly modern TV in a family room redesign.

You've probably noticed that new construction homes are placing TV's over the fireplace. There's lots of controversy over whether the heat and the height are appropriate. You can remedy the height somewhat by ensuring a comfortable distance from the TV and by professionally installing the TV on a bracket arm that allows you to angle to screen down. The ideal hight will be when the middle of the screen is roughly in line with your seated viewing position, about 3.5-4 feet from the floor. If you chose to mount the TV slightly higher than optimal, move your seating back a bit so a slightly greater distance from the TV makes for more comfortable viewing.

If deciding where to put the connection for the TV, consider where the doors are in your room. It is pretty easy to string a long cord around the perimeter of a room, possibly hiding it under the carpet, but doorways will limit your options. If there are multiple doors and you aren't yet sure of positioning or lighting, ask your installer to place a second TV connection on the other side of the room for flexibility.

Lighting is also a key peice of the puzzle. Ask your TV salesperson about whether an LCD or Plasma screen is best in your low-light or high-light situation. Consider whether the TV will be watched during the day, evening, or both. To reduce glare, investigate whether a single or multi-layer window covering solution is best. Single layers like shades and lighter curtains sometimes don't produce enough light-blockage for your room, so you may want to double up shades with linings underneath or curtains over the top. And don't forget about the lighting from skylights, which can also be a glare-producer. Light dimmers and uplighting on ceiling fans can offer a warm glow and safety that don't affect your viewing.

Next Month: Hang it Up!

Organizing Café:

Home Staging: Sell Your Home For More. Thursday July 9, 12 noon at the Woodbury (NJ) Kiwanis lunch meeting. Come learn the keys to positioning your home for a quick and profitable sale. Create universal appeal. It is more than just looks! Email or 856-905-3202 for more info.

Now scheduling for 2010. I would be honored to speak to your group or professional organization. Request a speaker's package today on my most popular topics:

Home Staging
Organizing for Tax Time
Organizing in the Home
Small Biz Strategies
Procrastination & How to Beat It
Decision Making Styles
Decorating for Free
...Or customized topics

Have you heard of SMART goals? Most people have, but it always helps to remember that effective goals that we are more likely to reach will be:

Specific
Measureable
Attainable
Relevant and
Time Bound.

Howard Taylor, noted efficiency author, uses SMART WAYS, where the additional four keys to success are:

Written
Apply to All Areas
Your Responsibility
Scheduled

I think the first and last- *written and scheduled*- are the keys that my most successful clients are using.

Have you written down what you are working on? I have, and I'll tell you that my next 30 days are very focused on just 3 items!

Scheduling your goals really is awesome. It's amazing how many people never make time to do the important things they promise themselves (lose weight, write a book, go back to school), but they don't fail to schedule a trip to the hair salon. Are you giving your hair stylist more respect than you give yourself?

Chose your goals and plan SMART WAYS. your name might not be Loreal, but I know you are definitely worth it!

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