

Tips for a Stylish Dorm Room

Written by Leslie K. Hughes

Tuesday, 29 July 2014 18:54 - Last Updated Wednesday, 30 July 2014 18:13



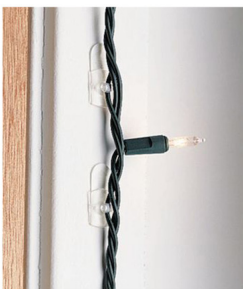
The idea of going off to college and living on your own, where you can come and go as you please, stay up as late as you want, have no curfew and no parents, seems like a dream come true. The only freedom that a dorm room cannot give you is space. No matter how you look at it, the bottom line is this: not only are you going to be confined to a very small living space, that very small living space is going to be shared with at least one other person. So, what can you do to make the best of this tiny living situation so you can fully enjoy the perks of your newfound freedom? Arizona Foothills Magazine has teamed up with Kerri Linsenbighler of DormCo and John Konicek of The Container Store's Scottsdale location to give you tips on how to make your dorm room the most stylish one on campus.

CLOSET SPACE



Did you know that the average college dorm closet is four feet wide? And did you know that that closet is intended to be shared with your roommate? The Container Store's Dublet Adjustable Closet Rod Expander is a great way to get additional space – twice as much, in fact. Also, since you will be visiting home at least once a semester, take with you only what you will need for the next few months, or until you go home again. Get in the habit of swapping out clothes according to seasons when you travel home. DormCo suggests getting a trunk such as their Armored Trunk for your room to store extra clothes. Trunks are great because they are extremely versatile. "They can act as extra seating, storage, or even a dorm room coffee table," suggests Linsenbighler.

WALL DECORATIONS



Make sure you pay attention to your dorm's rules for hanging pictures. Many dorms don't allow any nails to be screwed into the wall, and by putting holes in the wall you could end up being charged a hefty sum when you check out at the end of the year. To avoid that, The Container Store's Decorating Clips are great for hanging string lights to an area where you "want to add a bit of mood lighting to," says Konicek. DormCo thinks you should "ditch the posters" and go with one of their stylish wall decals instead. "Decals come in so many styles, from quotes to flowers to scenic views. There's bound to be a wall decal to fit your style and dorm décor theme," said Linsenbighler.

BEDS

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Beds are not only the place to rest your head for a couple hours a night, but in a dorm room, will also serve as additional storage space. "Our underbed boxes are perfect for utilizing space under the bed and they stack modularly, making the most efficient use of your closet space," said Konicek. When it comes to beds, DormCo is all about the bedding. "The bed is the biggest piece of furniture in most dorms, so it's the perfect place to show off your style. Whether that means bright-colored bedding or a more sophisticated look, a twin XL comforter provides your best means to make a stylish statement," expressed Linsenbigler.

OTHER IMPORTANT PIECES



Rugs are a vital piece of dorm room style. Most dorm room floors are cold, ugly tile and a great soft rug, such as DormCo's Plush Rug, with a fun design "pulls all of your other dorm décor together and is the perfect finishing touch on any room," said Linsenbigler. Also, adhesive-based hooks from The Container Store are the perfect way to keep track of your keys. Hang a hook by your door to be sure you never lose your keys!

However you decide to decorate your dorm, do it with style. Get creative and think outside the box to make your new living space your new favorite space.