

“Summerize” your home



Dara Wyton

After a long winter of warming our houses with candles, fires, and cozy throws, it's time to cool them off for summer.

First, clean and declutter. Put knickknacks away and clean out your closets. Put away items that make you feel hot and heavy; instead think light and simple. Pull up the blinds and clean the windows inside and out.

Now take a look at you drapes: are they dark and heavy? You might want to exchange them for lighter, softer fabrics—try sheers, linens, and light cottons in colours such as white, soft yellow, and cool blue.

Pack away your winter bedding and bring in a light comforter in a cool tone. Remove the abundance of pillows or cover them with cases in lighter hues.

Roll up your rugs, clean out the fireplace, and put some of your plants outside—anything to keep the house feeling cool and fresh.

Think of a facelift for summer. Freshen up your living room with a new, crisp paint color. Nothing says fresh like a new kitchen, so tackle painting old dingy cabinets.

Try moving your living room furniture around to change your focal point from the fireplace to the windows. Slipcover your furniture with blue-and-white ticking stripe in crisp cotton. Change your mantelscape to include shells, grasses, and fresh flowers.

An instant and affordable cool-down is as easy as changing a light bulb. Seriously, you can simply change a yellow-casting bulb to a cool daylight-mimicking one. Use bulbs that simulate natural daylight—the healthiest light source for the human eye—and enjoy the resulting reduction in eyestrain.

Now bring your indoors out. Set up a dining room on the deck and take your fantabulous new



rattan sofa outside. Add candles to set the mood.

There are always a few don'ts: It is never okay to bring out doilies. Do not slipcover your furniture with old blankets or replace your drapery with anything lace. And don't keep dust-collecting fake flowers on display—it's summer, so bring in the real thing! ■

Contact Dara Wyton Design for a design consultation:
604-989-4000 or
www.darawyton.com