

Soft Furnishings - Cushions

Cushions play a key role in finishing a room. They are wonderfully versatile, reinforcing your chosen style or theme throughout the room and bringing it all together. They can also transform the mood of a room. A plain, minimalist room, decorated in muted natural colours or whites, can be finished either with neutral cushions in a range of textures and shapes, or jazzed up with bright primaries or bold patterns. creating vivid splashes of colour and an altogether different mood.

One single cushion in an unusual fabric with striking colour combinations can be all that is needed. Wall cushions can be attached with loops to a curtain pole along the back of a bed in place of a headboard. The secret to comfortable scatter cushions is to make them large and plump. Soft fillings are ideal for nestling into on sofas, whereas foam fillings are most supportive for floor cushions. Polyester Fibre fillings are a good choice for asthmatics because its non-absorbent and washable, however they do not have the same longevity as feathers or foam.

Care for Cushions

Cushions perform many different functions within the home, and you will already have chosen fabrics suitable for the purpose. Dust should be from scatter cushions, window seats and sofa cushions daily. Beat the pad from each side between your fists or drop each cushion on to the floor one corner at a time to knock air back in, dust out, and the feathers back into the corners. Cushions can be hung in a cotton bag outside on a warm spring day with a light breeze to freshen fabrics and feather pads.

The most conventional cushions are square and simply made with two pieces of fabric joined together. This need not be the limit of innovation, as the possibilities are endless. Don't be afraid to experiment with fabrics, shapes and detailing.

Pillows and Pillowcases

The average pillow is 50x75cm with numerous styles to choose from, including 'Housewife', 'Oxford', Square or Button pillowcases. Whether to go for a natural or synthetic pillow is personal preference but as a general rule the more feathers, the firmer the pillow.

