



# Furniture & Decor: Where to Find the Best Stuff

WHAT TO BUY WHERE



WHERE TO BUY WHAT



Hi! I'm Myquillyn, wife to Chad, mom to 3 teenage boys, lover of houses. We've moved 14 times in 20 years of marriage and our last home (a rental) was featured in Better Homes & Gardens, Cottages & Bungalows & more, now we are fixing up a fixer-upper.

I'm a **Cozy Minimalist**. I want and appreciate a pretty (favorite!) and functional home, but my goal is to use the least amount of stuff to get the style I'm after. That means I still actually shop for stuff! But I'm patient and invest where it counts, take fun risks (they are just walls after all) and evaluate what I really need, what I find beautiful and what serves our family in our home during each stage of our family life.

Minimal doesn't have to mean modern and cozy doesn't have to mean cluttered.

You might be a Cozy Minimalist too--why use more than needed to get the look you love?



I learned how to make a home the old fashioned way--trial and error. I love a pretty house, but not at the expense of our family's budget and filling it with pretty things we don't use or need. When it comes to home & life I fully believe it doesn't have to be perfect to be beautiful.



I created this guide to share my favorite places to shop for all things home. I hope you enjoy it, and I hope you experience more confidence on where to start when it comes to shopping with purpose for your home!





Wouldn't it be so easy if there was one perfect shopping spot to find everything you need for decorating your home?

Yes.

BUT, then we'd all have homes that looked entirely too similar and really, that takes a lot of the fun out of the thrill of finding that special piece for your home.

This guide is the answer to one of the questions I get often:

“WHERE’S THE BEST PLACE TO BUY...?”





## RUGS

My favorite place to shop for rugs is RUGSUSA. I've had surprisingly great luck buying rugs online, especially when I buy my rug as one of the first things in a space instead of the last. (sign up for their email list to receive coupons for up to 80% off!).

We have a tendency to purchase rugs that are too small--for most of us, a 5 x 8 foot rug is going to be too small for the family room or under the dining room table, opt for the next size up.



## DRAPES

Ikea is my favorite place to buy great drapes for a great price--less than \$50 a pair.

I've also found lots of styles at Target.com {96" lengths and up are only found online}.

Joss & Main also carries fun options at less than \$50 a pair.

It's rare to find a home that looks good with 84" panels--opt for the 96" length and hang them high.



## SOFA

In our house, a sofa is a primary source of seating--meaning our family uses a sofa a lot--daily. So we want to be able to sit on it before we buy.

Local shops, craigslist and well-established makers with great reputations are your best bet. Sofas are one of the few items I'm willing to splurge on in our home.

We currently use a five year old La-Z-Boy leather sofa as our primary sofa and we still love it.



## PRIMARY CHAIRS

Some chairs in your house will be used often and daily--like your favorite reading chair, the office chair or your husband's recliner. These are all primary chairs.

You'll most likely want to actually sit in any primary chairs before you purchase, so like sofas, local shops, reputable makers and craigslist are the best options to find the primary seating that is comfortable for you. I've also had luck at local consignment shops--visit the shops in the wealthier parts of towns for higher end finds!



## SECONDARY CHAIRS

There are some places in your home where you simply need extra seating-- for the guest that stops by, in the corner of your bedroom so you can slip on your shoes, or at the breakfast table.

Since your hiney won't be spending hours at a time in these seats, comfort isn't the number one priority, but instead you can focus on style, scale, color and price.

I shop second hand {thrift stores, antique malls, craigslist and yard sales} for secondary seating--I'm very picky and look for chairs in mint condition. Also, I've had great luck with Ikea. Shopping online is another good option since comfort isn't the number one goal and you don't need to sit before you buy--Wayfair, Joss & Main and Overstock are a few fun options.



## CASE GOODS

Bookshelves, dining tables, night stands, dressers-- these are all case goods and these are one of my favorite things to shop for second hand.

Antique malls, craigslist, yard sales and consignment shops are a great place to find really unique pieces that often look better with age.

I also like shopping online for these pieces at Wayfair, Overstock and Amazon.

HomeGoods {Marshalls & TJ Maxx} have a surprisingly great selection and so does World Market.



## LIGHT FIXTURES

Chandeliers and sconces can work double duty IF you let them--they are functional, but also can add a TON of style!

I'll splurge on a great light fixture or chandy.

I've found great things at Ballard Designs, Pottery Barn, West Elm, Wayfair, One Kings Lane and even Amazon, Ikea, Ebay and World Market.

We even have a few lighting pieces we've found second hand at yard sales.





## LAMPS

Most likely, your home needs more light--lamps are my favorite solution.

I've never purchased a lamp with a shade online because they always seem overpriced.

HomeGoods is my FAVORITE place to buy a lamp--most are less than \$50--buy an identical pair if you can.

Target, West Elm and World Market also carry an assortment of beautiful, inexpensive lamps.



## THE BED

Remember how I told you to splurge on the sofa? The bed is the one other place that I'll splurge if I can. You spend a huge amount of your life on/in it, it sets the mood for your bedroom and you want it to be well made.

Our bed happens to be on Amazon right now, but I'm willing to find a bed anywhere I can, most likely new--Pottery Barn, Wayfair, Restoration Hardware, West Elm.



## THE MATTRESS

We have and LOVE our Leesa mattress. Disclaimer: Leesa was a sponsor of Nesting Place and provided us with a mattress in exchange for an honest review.

We've had this mattress for almost a year and I still love it so much--it's SHOCKING how much I look forward to going to bed with this mattress.

It's firmer than I would have chosen in a store--which I think has always been my problem, I'm picking out mattresses that are too soft. Leesa will let you try out their mattress for 100 nights to make sure it is right for you--sleeping on a mattress really is the only way to tell if it works for you.





## APPLIANCES

Scratch & dent section for the win! Most of our appliances have been purchased from the “almost perfect” section of all sorts of different stores. Often, the imperfection is on the side, so you’ll never even see it.

We found a great deal on a second-hand Viking Range on Craigslist--Vikings are known for their quality so we purchased one that was 6 years old and saved about 80%! We’ve used it for three years--it’s my favorite appliance ever! [See the rest of our kitchen here.](#)

I also have the GE Artistry Series appliances in my office (sponsored at the time) and the style and price CANNOT be beat! So retro and pretty!



## BIG ACCESSORIES

Ottomans, garden stools, little tables that can hold a cup of coffee--these are all a type of large accessory for your home that add style but still serve a purpose.

Target, World Market, antique malls, consignment shops, Home Goods are my favorite places to find my favorite part of home decor--the big accessories.

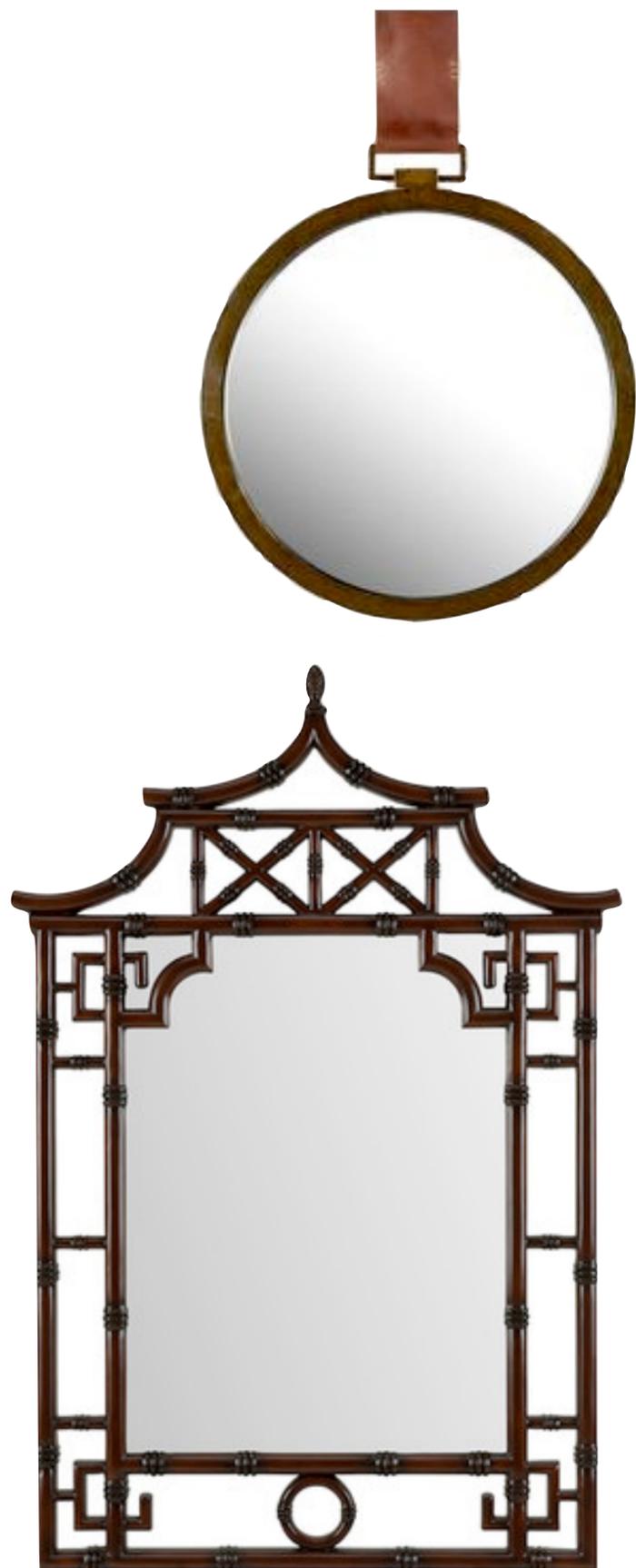
## MIRRORS

I love using mirrors in our home--and have one in almost every room.

I found all of my favorite mirrors second hand, mostly at thrift stores, antique malls, and yard sales.

In town, I shop at HomeGoods, Pier 1 and World Market and local specialty shops for mirrors.

Mirrors are something I rarely--if ever, buy online--shipping is a bear and they are fragile and so readily available at so many stores, it's not worth it to me.





Pillows are my favorite! After years of trial and error, I've learned to only purchase pillows with REMOVABLE COVERS. I love feather pillow inserts...you can UNZIP the pillow cover and remove the inside plain white stuffed pillow--this is called the insert.

## PILLOWS

As much as it kills me, I rarely buy pillows from Target or World Market because the pillows aren't made with a removable cover (where I could use a feather insert). After two weeks in my active home, a pillow with cheap insides has gone flat and is ugly and usually needs to be washed--which is much easier if it can be unzipped.

I buy pillows (or simply pillow covers where I use an insert I already have) from Etsy, West Elm and even Pottery Barn Kids.

PS, the bigger the pillow the better.

## THROWS

A throw or small blanket is worth its weight in World Market gift cards! Use them for warmth, yes, but also they can help style an old sofa or chair, and you can change the entire look of your space just by changing out your throws and pillows.

I'll buy a throw anywhere I can find one that I love--department stores, HomeGoods, World Market, Target, Anthropologie, West Elm, even Amazon.

Need some styling tips with thows & pillows for your sofa? [Watch this video I made for you.](#)



## SMALLS & TCHOTCHKES

I love finding fun, quirky pieces for our home--ideally they serve two purposes, like a pretty vase, a tray that can also hold even smaller collections or boxes for storage.

Again, I love me some HomeGoods and thrift stores for these little finds that cozy up our space. Anthropologie also has a great selection and often their small home items can be found on clearance.

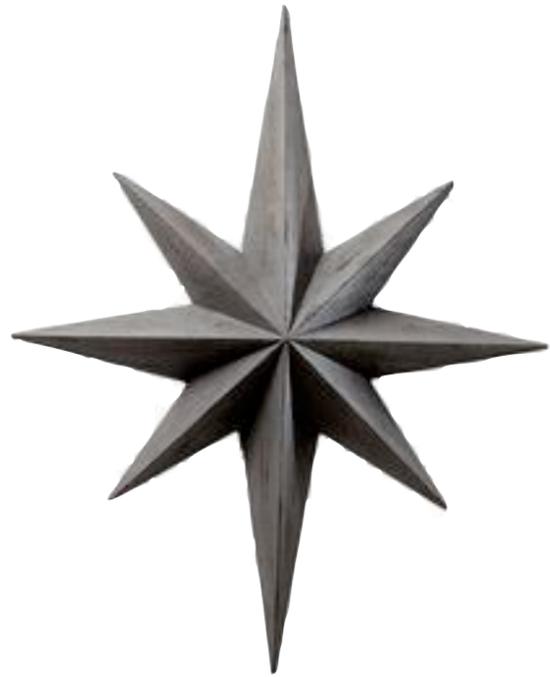


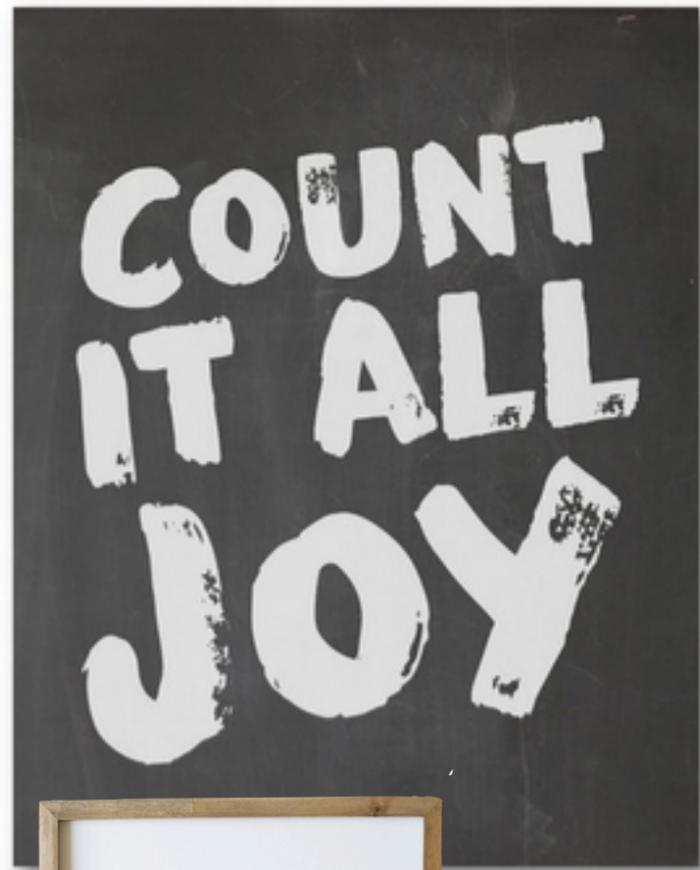
## UNEXPECTED WALL ART

I have an aversion to framed, matted and glassed in 'art'. I like some texture, dimension and interest on my walls, so I'm drawn to mirrors, artists I know, or unexpected wall art.

Antique malls are my absolute favorite place to find unique pieces for our walls. I've also had great luck with Craigslist when I was looking for something specific (taxidermied blue marlin & elk antlers).

HomeGoods and Joss & Main have a surprisingly good selection of unique wall art as well.





## MEANINGFUL WALL ART

I am in love with [Lindsay Letter's](#) work, the [Naptime Diaries](#) shop and with [Vol. 25](#).

Find a few artists that you really enjoy and start collecting a few of their pieces, they don't have to be signed, one of a kind originals to be beautiful!

HEY, I'VE ALREADY HEARD  
OF ALL THESE PLACES!

Yep, there's no secret stash  
of great decor shops, that  
people are hiding. My guess  
is that you already have  
visited each of these  
places--but now, you know  
what to look for at each  
store.

Creating a beautiful home  
should be fun, give yourself  
the gift of time and enjoy the  
process!



HEY, YOU KEEP LISTING THE  
SAME 10 STORES!

Yep! Isn't that great! We  
don't have to go to a million  
different shops to create a  
beautiful, unique and  
meaningful space.

I hope that is freeing for you  
to realize you are already  
shopping in the right places,  
now, you can shop with a  
little more purpose!



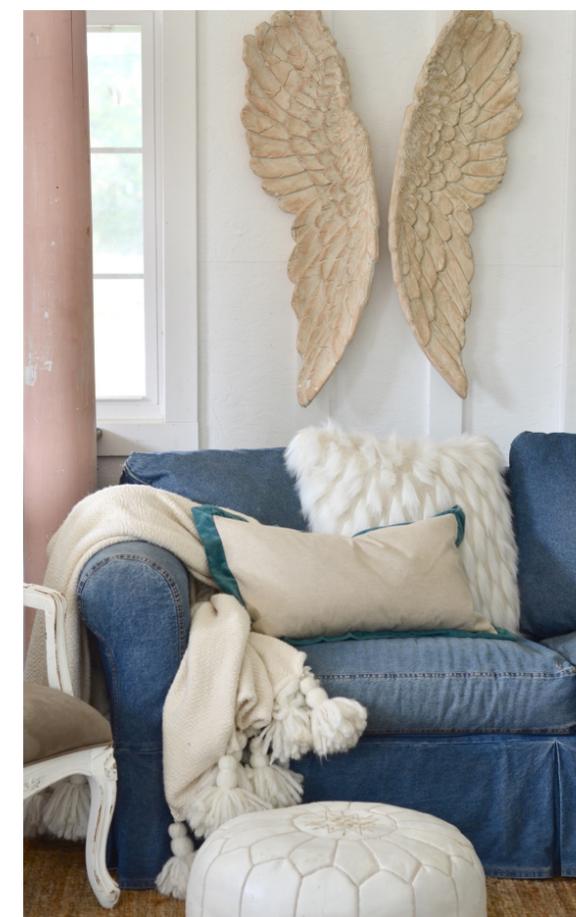
## ABOUT THESE IMAGES

99% of the images I used in this PDF are from Joss & Main--why? Because their items are all on a white background and easy for me to use in something like this--I also like their stuff--often you can find the same item on Wayfair without worrying the sale will end soon. When I purchase from Joss & Main I always check out Wayfair to see if I can find reviews and the maker of each piece so I can compare prices with other retailers.



BUT WHERE'D YOU GET THAT....?

For anything that I purchased for my own home that's available online, I've created a special page [at Nesting Place](#) with direct links.



if you enjoyed this information, join me for lots more inspiration:

see what I'm doing in my own house: [thenester.com](https://thenester.com)

sign up for the online decorating course: [cozyminimalist.com](https://cozyminimalist.com)

follow along in instagram: [@thenester](https://www.instagram.com/thenester)

read the book on creating a home in the midst of an imperfect life: [here](#)

