Revive

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7 Tips
To brighten your dark, dreary cabin

7 ways to brighten a dark home or room

Do you have a home or room that you would love to make lighter and airier? Are you tired of the dark browns of many mountain and lake cabins, yet want to keep that cozy charm?

Fortunately, there are several ways to brighten up a dark room without breaking the bank. At McKnight Interiors, we are here to assist the mountain homeowner in creating a warm, inviting home while maintaining its character. Here are 7 ways you can light and brighten any dark room.

1 Reduce clutter

Every object in a room absorbs the limited amount of light and can make the room feel heavy, smaller and darker. Remove and store away unnecessary accessories and decorative items.

Consider decluttering kitchen countertops for a new, clean look. Minimalism also pertains to walls. Don't over clutter walls with too much art and photos, if you want to make the room look larger.

2 Lighten walls to make the room feel larger

The second place to start when brightening up a dark room is giving a fresh coat of light, neutral color paint on walls, over dark paneling, dark stoned fireplaces and kitchen travertine tile... yes even dated kitchen tile! Apply two coats of high gloss white paint over travertine tile, to lighten and brighten any dark, dated kitchen. Keep those original rustic ceiling beams and flooring to maintain the mountain charm.

3 Add natural light, Remove heavy draperies

One of the easiest and most effective ways to bring more natural light into your home is to remove heavy draperies and dark blinds. Replace them with something light and airy.

Compliment your open light fixtures and cabinet hardware with black framed windows, allowing the beautiful sunlight to fill your room.

4 Bright ideas with lighting

A successful lighting design combines a number of light sources at different levels of the room. Double your lighting pleasure with twin pendant lights. Wall lights or sconces are a great way to add interest to an empty wall and illuminate the space. Open ceiling light fixtures create a focal point in the room while adding ambient lighting.

5 Use mirrors to reflect light

Mirror, mirror on the wall... an absolute must in every home. Mirrors reflect light like nothing else, so ensure to mount mirrors from the opposite side of your windows. Mirrors can make a room look larger. Glass tabletops will also give your room a more open feel.

> " Lighting is everything... it creates atmosphere, drama and intrigue in a room

Interior Designer
Martyn Lawrence Bullard

6 **Choose furniture carefully**

Consider replacing your old, dark, heavy furniture with lighter toned furniture. Lighter fabric or leather sofa and chairs allow light to filter around the furniture, making the room appear airier and larger. Replace bulky cabinets with open shelving options. Complement the lighter furniture with open wood tables.

7 **Use color and light accessorie**

Dark furniture can add a rich elegance to a room. However, dark furniture might also make the space look dull and dated. One of the easiest ways to lighten up the space around dark furniture, is compliment the room with light paint color, neutral bedding, mirrors and glass base lamps.