

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Pandemic renovations. Being forced to spend more time than ever at home has sparked new ideas for improvements **P2&3**

Upcycling. 'Refashion, reimagine and reinvent'; the trend towards sustainable living fills homes with unique pieces of furniture **P8&9**

Creating a feeling of space. Expert tips on how to make a small home look and feel bigger, with colour, light and design **P10&11**

A touch of colour in the right proportions

A simple rule makes all the difference
when it comes to choosing combinations for your home **P6**



Lockdown unleashes home improvement fever

Relief. After a massive drop in business last spring, the sector found that activity returned to pre-pandemic levels much sooner than it had expected

SUSANA ZAMORA



Companies in the sector feared the worst but were then encouraged by the level of enquiries. SUR

It seems to have been our background music for nearly a year now. The sound of hammers and angle grinders echoes through apartment blocks and down streets, and it began as

soon as last year's lockdown ended, as people who had been confined to their homes for so long decided that improvements were needed.

Our homes may have been a refuge from the virus, but in the

majority of cases they also became improvised offices so people could continue to work, and this often highlighted defects and inconvenient aspects which had not been obvious before.

In July last year, Andimac, the association representing the home improvements sector, presented a report which showed that six out of every ten households in Spain were planning to make changes to their homes after the pandemic.

"Many people became aware of things that were wrong in their homes and decided to improve them. In some cases, the intensive use of their living space during the lockdown had led to a deterioration in some of the rooms," they say

Non-urgent works, which were prohibited from mid-March to the end of April last year (only new constructions or work on uninhabited buildings were permitted during that time), were allowed again, with safety and hygiene restrictions, after 25 May.

"In March last year activity dropped by 35 per cent and by 75 per cent in April, but in May the reduction was 10 per cent and then in June things picked up again, and there was eight per cent more business than in the same month in 2019," says the association.

"Once the lockdown was over, the phone never stopped ringing," says Raúl del Pozo, the founder and owner of the Renueva

21 company, which is based in Alameda, in Malaga province.

He admits that this had been a pleasant surprise because during the months the business remained closed he kept thinking that nobody would want to do any work on their homes when the crisis was over, because they wouldn't be able to afford it, or that people would just decide to wait.

"May is always a good month in this sector, so we were expecting the worst, but by the end of the year things were actually the same, or even better, than they had been the previous year," he says.

Overwhelmed with enquiries

His fears disappeared when an "overwhelming" number of en-

quiries came in once the lockdown was over. Since then, his firm has signed numerous contracts to open up terraces which had previously been enclosed to make more living space. "People have realised that they want to be able to get some fresh air and not feel shut in," says Del Pozo.

Many people have also modernised their bathrooms and kitchens. These are rooms with intensive use and a strong component of personality, but they are also among the most expensive to improve.

A study by Andimac, the National Association of Distributors of Ceramics and Construction Materials, shows that the average cost of modernising these rooms is between 5,400 and 5,700 euros. Altogether, they can account for nearly 49 per cent of the total quote for improvements, before IVA is taken into account.

Then, before the summer, fear of future outbreaks of the virus led people to think about swimming pools and air conditioning. Sources at Habitissimo, the online platform for the reforms and repairs sector, say that during the summer months there were numerous contracts to improve the comfort of outdoor areas such as gardens and terraces.

"In Malaga, specifically, there were three times as many requests to build swimming pools and install awnings than there

Interior design Decoration Furniture



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had been the summer before," they say.

At Remaconst, a construction and improvements company in Vélez-Málaga, which specialises in complete home reforms, the growing demand for swimming pools has continued, especially in the Rincón de la Victoria area.

"We have received over 300 requests for quotes so far, compared with 130 in 2019," says the director, Diego Medina, and he says the firm has contracts which will keep it busy for the rest of this year.



Many people want their homes to be more comfortable now. SUR

Furniture showrooms saw a boom in interest in 2020

The months we were shut indoors took their toll on our furniture: sales of mattresses, sofas and desks are higher than ever before

S. ZAMORA

During the two-month lockdown, the hours we spent on the sofa watching TV, reading in bed, baking cakes or working at a computer took their toll on our furniture. Never before had we spent so long in our homes, and it made many of us realise that things could definitely be better.

"During the lockdown, many people realised how uncomfortable their mattresses were," ac-

cording to the MaxColchón shop in Málaga, where staff have seen an "extraordinary" increase in sales since it reopened.

This seems to be a continuing trend. People are spending less on holidays and not going out as often as they used to because of restrictions, uncertainty about the future and the possibility of more lockdowns. They are renewing their furniture instead.

This is putting pressure on manufacturers, and deliveries are taking longer than usual. "I have been working in the furniture business for nearly 20 years and I have never seen anything like this. Normally when there has been an economic crisis sales drop because furniture is not a priority, but

we are selling more than ever before, especially mattresses, sofas, reclining chairs and desks," say sources at one well-known furniture store in Málaga.

"There has been an increased demand for home improvements and new furniture, because the lockdown changed people's lifestyles. They had to spend more time at home and now they appreciate their living space more and want it to be comfortable," says Enrique Fernández, president of the ACEMA association of furniture companies in Andalucía.

He says that although many employees in the sector were furloughed during the pandemic, most factories are back to normal staffing levels now

and are busy with orders.

There is a backlog of orders which could not be fulfilled at the height of the crisis and plenty of new customers who have decided to improve their homes, although the pressure is beginning to ease now. However, the question in the sector now is how long this will last and whether consumers will continue to invest in their homes once the pandemic is finally over.

"The main doubt now is whether this really does signify a changing trend and people will continue to treat their home as a priority, or whether this has been a passing phase as a result of the crisis," says Fernández.

Figures from the sector, including those showing a drop in the number of permits for building projects granted by the Official Colleges of Architects, are causing uncertainty regarding a possible reduction in demand from this summer.

Certainly, not all is rosy in this sector. Although furniture shops and manufacturers are seeing a boom in demand, the situation is not the same for architects, interior designers and the hotel furnishing and equipment industry, who are suffering the effects of the crisis.

A study on how people perceive their home after the lockdown, carried out by Sigma Dos, shows that 43.7 per cent of people in Spain value their home more as a result of the pandemic. Most of them, 52.6 per cent, say their living room is the one they like most, followed by the bedroom (20.4%), and terrace or balcony (7.9%).

However, the figures seem to depend on age group. Of the people aged between 18 and 24 who took part in the home perception survey, 50.8 per cent say their favourite room in the house during lockdown was their bedroom.

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PERSONALISATION. The key to its success is to adapt the project to the lifestyle of each client

Renovarte Home Decoration, the leading family-owned interior design company that takes care of your home

With more than 30 years of experience, this company located in Nueva Andalucía stands out for its friendliness and commitment to its clients

MARBELLA

SUR. One of the lessons we have learned over the past year is the importance of taking care of the home. Homes are temples where we can rest, spend time with our family and friends, work and enjoy day-to-day life.

That is why it is so important to furnish our house; making sure that we make the most out of every space. It is not just a matter of choosing the most suitable furniture, it is also important to have professional advice to help optimise the rooms and adapt them to the families' needs.

With more than 30 years of experience, Renovarte Home Decoration are specialists in interior design projects, furniture sales and everything you need for your home or work-space.



This family business has made a name for itself in the sector thanks to its close relationship and commitment to its customers, who include people of different nationalities, from British, German, Nordic or Belgian, among others.

"Our clients highlight the immediacy of the work and the reliability of the finishes. They know that we are a family, and that we involve ourselves to the maximum in each project, and this gener-

"Our clients highlight the immediacy of the work and the reliability of the finishes. They know that we are a family, and that we involve ourselves to the maximum in each project"



ates a lot of confidence in them," the company explains.

Thanks to their extensive experience, updated with the latest trends, Renovarte Home Decoration helps buyers to give shape to their ideas and decorate spaces to their taste with a unique and personal style, whether they are individuals or companies, adapting to budgets and needs.

In this sense, it is worth mentioning that from their premises, located in Nueva Andalucía, they

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offer decoration services for villas, homes, businesses and offices. To do so, they have a great team of professionals and the best materials on the market. "As leaders in interior design, in Marbella and surrounding areas, we turn your ideas into reality," they say.

Interior and exterior decorating

As Renovarte Home Decoration explains, one of the keys to their success is offering clients a global vision, which involves the design of both interior and exterior within the property. "Thanks to the magnificent climate, terraces and gardens are very popular in our province, and they are spaces that can be used to great advantage when they are well prepared," they stress. To this end, they have an extensive catalogue of outdoor furniture, roller blinds, Venetian blinds, blackout blinds and an infinite number of options for awnings and pergolas.

As far as the rooms in the house are concerned, they have elements with which they can personalise the home in an exclusive way, such as incredible made-to-measure carpets, wallpaper and SartoriaMurale from the best brands on the national and international market. All this in addition to textiles for curtains, net curtains, upholstery and cushions from prestigious firms such as Kirkby Design's, Jim Thompson Fabrics or Pierre Frey, among many others.

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RENOVARTE
Home Decoration

If you're not sure about colour schemes, just think **60-30-10**

Style by numbers. This is how to have a home like the ones you see in the glossy magazines



Beige (60%) Green (30%) Yellow (10%). In this idea for a living room, suggested by Natalia Zubizarreta, the beige tones predominate (walls, sofas, furniture, rug), and they are complemented by the green of the chaise longue, the textiles and plants, and the touches of contrast are then provided by the yellow which has been used for the cushions and the stools.



White (60%) Wood (30%) Black (10%). In this case, the 10 per cent of strong colour is the black, which stands out a bit more than some would but goes very well with the wooden tones of the furniture and floor and the white on the walls of the kitchen and dining area.



White (60%) Wood (30%) Pink (10%). This space is a good example of how changing the colour of accessories (textiles and flowers, in this case) can give it a completely different look. A base as neutral as this one (white and wood) can be matched with any contrasting colour.

others. They also make a room seem lighter and are less tiring on the eyes.

For the secondary colour, which will be used for approximately one-third of the room, tones which go well with the dominant colour are recommended but they should not be too strong. Wood colours, blues or greens are usually effective. This 30 per cent is usually used to colour the floor, the furniture or the sofas in a living room.

The more daring touches of colour in a room should be used for accessories such as cushions, tablecloths, blankets, decorative objects and lampshades. There is no reason to be afraid of using strong colours because the intention is for them to be eye-catching but without being overpowering. Also, as they are only used on small items, they can be changed every now and then at minimum cost, and this is a good way to make your room look different once again.

Winning combination

If you still have doubts about your judgement when combining colours, you can follow the recommendations of experts regarding decoration.

"My advice is that the predominant colour should always have a soft hue because this will make the room seem cosier. Whites, beige, milk or stone are always a safe bet. If you're not sure about mixing colours, it is best to stick to neutral tones because you can't go wrong that way. Greens, blues and greys also go well together, especially with the range of pastel shades. And when I say pastel, I don't mean one of those babyish colours, just a more subtle tone," says interior designer Natalia Zubizarreta.

A "winning combination" for this designer in a bedroom would be a pale blue with a soft hue on the walls (the 60%, beige or white for the bed linen (30%) and a mustard yellow for the touch of colour with the cushions and lamps.

In the case of a kitchen, for example, the predominant colour could be white furniture (60%), a wooden worktop and chairs (30%) and details in blue or green, for example.

"For living rooms, a contrasting tone that I think always works well and looks good is an orange-red, such as the colour that you see on roof tiles," says Natalia.

CARMEN BARREIRO

If you fancy changing the appearance of your home but have never been sure about colour combinations, don't worry. All you need to do is follow a simple decoration technique called the 60-30-10 rule and you can achieve a Homes & Gardens style living space without spending a fortune or causing yourself any headaches.

This system can be basically summed up as choosing a predominant colour for 60 per cent of the room you want to decorate, a secondary tone for another 30 per cent and keeping the remaining 10 per cent for some more daring touches of colour.

The main colour is usually used on the walls and ceilings, because these cover the biggest area of the room and it is the one which is most noticeable. One option which works well in these cases - especially for those who are inexperienced in choosing colour schemes - is to use neutral tones, because these are the most simple to combine with

Escandi Design is the new design centre on the Mijas Road. This brand new, 800m² space offers an eclectic mix of own collections mixed with high-end brands. Classic Scandinavian furniture, in rustic and new versions, never seen before, all mixed with art deco furniture and unique decoration pieces; a large kitchen showroom and a section of the finest Swedish beds from Carpe Diem and much more.

Escandi Design was born from a passion for design and creating amazing and unique living spaces! Their love for good design took on a new direction when owners, Johan from Sweden and Gitte from Denmark, landed on the amazing island of Bali!

"We found this haven with a mix between modern design and rustic materials!

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They also felt a deep connection with Bali and wanted to do something good for the island's inhabitants, therefore they try to buy from small workshops from the countryside of this beautiful island.

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The eco-friendly answer to furnishing your house

Upcycling. As the need to find sustainable solutions in all areas of modern life becomes more urgent, home owners are discovering the benefits of revamping old furniture

JENNIE RHODES /
DAVID BALMER



Some of Jenni Thompson's reimagined furniture. SUR

With a huge global push towards being more sustainable, the concept of the three R's - Reuse, Recycle and Reduce - and arguably more time on our hands since the start of the pandemic, upcycling furniture has become a popular

hobby, and even business, for many people in Malaga.

"Upcycling is not the same as recycling," explains the website, Hipcycle.com. "Recycling takes consumer materials - mostly plastic, paper, metal and glass - and breaks them down so their base

materials can be remade into a new consumer product, often of lesser quality," the website notes. The idea of upcycling, it explains, "is to improve the existing item without breaking down the materials." Words that are often associated with upcycling include "re-fashioning, reimagining and reinventing".

For the upcyclers SUR in English has spoken to, the drivers behind the movement often include an underwhelming choice of new products available, the environmental aspect and the opportunity to be creative.

Sue Bell who lives in Torrox explains, "I have always had a make do and mend outlook and hate to throw things away if they can be of use to me or someone else and I have always been interested in crafting and home decoration."

Sue goes on to say that when she and her husband Rob first moved to Spain, they "did not have the money to buy new furniture", so she hunted around on buy and sell sites and at local markets. "One of my first projects was an old Castilian cabinet which I saved from going to the tip," she says.

Since then Sue has reinvented a chest of drawers and two headboards which were also destined for the tip, a terrace table and six chairs, a side table and an old bar stool which she's turned into a pot stand; she's also made patchwork cushion covers from some of Rob's old shirts.

Sue explains that she doesn't sell any of her furniture, but that it is something she may think about



Table and chair by Sue Bell. SUR



A piece by Jenni Thompson. SUR



Table by Jenni Thompson. SUR

in the future. She does make Christmas decorations from wine bottle corks, old decorations, broken jewellery, scraps of fabric and plastic trays she gets from supermarkets, which she sells to raise money for Lux Mundi.

Benefits

The benefits of upcycling seem obvious. Less waste that ends up in landfill and less need to cut down raw materials to make new furniture. This has a direct impact on reduction in air and water pollution, landfill use, loss of biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions.

From a local point of view, the furniture is often bought from a charity shop, or the money goes directly into the hands of the seller at a market or on a local buy or swap website. This could well be helping someone who has been financially affected by the pandemic.

Driven by the need to create a home-office space when she started working from home at the start of last year's lockdown, Corey Schuster has recently started upcycling.

"It's all too easy to look online and get something delivered to your front door," she says. However, finding just what she wanted in the Torre del Mar Cudeca furniture shop, Corey commented: "It drove home a really good point that if you do a bit of research you can normally find something locally. When buying online, things often come from overseas and have lots of packaging. By going to a local shop you save all transportation, contamination and packaging. It

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Some of the revamped pieces on display at the Vitamina Workroom. **SUR**

Arabia to Hungary. She says she's been "horrified" at the "throw away cultures" of some countries she's lived in, but when she got to Budapest, she was "excited" about the annual throw out day the city holds, where people put everything they don't need out on the street for anyone to take away and reuse.

"I would come home with a ladder under each arm, dragging a chair and whatever else I could carry," she laughs. Some of the furniture has come with her, but Jenni also explains that she gets a "buzz" out of passing things on to other people.

Furniture giant gets involved

Ikea seems to have got in on the act too and runs a 'buy back and resell' service, which is available in Malaga. The process involves using their buyback tool and taking unwanted Ikea furniture to a local store where a member of staff will confirm a refund price offer.

The only catch is that refund can only be used at Ikea. The furniture is then resold in the secondhand area for the same price as the store paid for the item.

On the website, the firm says, "It's even more sustainable, and everybody wins. Someone else gets to enjoy your secondhand Ikea furniture. You do something that's good for your pocket and the planet."

Workshops in Malaga

At the forefront of upcycling in Malaga city is the Vitamina Workroom, located on Calle Huerto del Conde.

The studio aims to "give a new lease of life to old furniture" and was opened in 2016 by Helena Schneider, who left her career in

marketing in her home city Madrid to make a living from her lifelong passion of design. Helena is self-taught in furniture repair and is assisted by her friend Antonio Blanco, an interior designer.

Not only does Vitamina repair old furniture for customers and sell items repaired in store, but it also offers weekly classes where people can personally handcraft their own piece.

Visitors bring the item they want to upcycle and are guided by the team through the process. Each class lasts for two hours and can be attended by up to eight people. In total, around forty people currently attend the sessions. Members are mainly locals but Helena points out that there are also several foreigners taking part. She says that, while most attendees are women, more men are getting involved with the hobby.

Regarding upcycling, Helena says, "Because of wear and tear or trends changing, you may feel that you have to replace a piece of furniture, but this doesn't mean you have to throw it away."

She adds, "These pieces reflect our personal histories, so learning to preserve and adapt them is very useful."

More generally, she believes the increased interest in activities such as this reflects a renewed appreciation of hand-crafted, unique items with character instead of those produced on a large scale.

She also stresses that no prior experience is needed to join the classes, which take place four days a week and cost 60 euros a month to take part in; new members are taught the basics when they first join, she adds.

THE EXPERTS

Corey Schuster
Torre del Mar

"It drove home a really good point that if you do a bit of research, you can normally find something locally"



Jenni Thompson
Nerja

"With COVID people are rethinking what is important and questioning how much they actually need"



Sue Bell
Torrox

"One of my first projects was an old Castilian cabinet which I saved from going to the tip"



Helena Schneider
Malaga

"These pieces reflect our personal histories, so learning to preserve and adapt them is very useful"



makes it all worthwhile."

Corey went on to say that her two small chests of drawers, "felt like a good purchase". She says she bought them locally and did something to help a local charity. She also felt she was buying "quality that you don't find anymore".

Corey sanded them down and gave them a lick of paint, which in turn gave the furniture "a brand new lease of life". She even found the original price tag on the back of one of the drawers and discovered that they had originally been bought for 30,000 pesetas. "I feel like I'm part of the legacy of the furniture," she added.

For Jenni Thompson, who lives in Nerja and sells some of her pieces at Trapiche and La Raqueta markets as well as via Facebook, upcycling provides a creative escape from her day job as an international educator, which since the pandemic started, has meant a lot of screen time.

It has also led to meeting neighbours and other people in the local creative community. "I have a garage on Calle Málaga in Nerja and people often come in to see what I'm doing. It's quite often Spanish children or older people, which has been great for my Spanish," she says.

Jenni's own apartment is full of furniture she has picked up at markets or from online sites and she has furnished two rental apartments with her creations. She laughs that she's even been known to "chase the bin men down the street with something they're about to take away."

She points out, "It's nice to see there is a cycle. With Covid people are rethinking what is important and questioning how much they actually need."

Jenni is originally from Australia, but has lived all over the world, from the USA to Africa and Saudi



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Design ideas. N. Zubizarreta

How to make your space look bigger

Advice. Knocking down walls is one solution, but there are others. Paint wooden doors and cupboards white and have pale-coloured walls and ceilings throughout the house. Some simple tricks can make any home seem considerably more spacious

CARMEN BARREIRO

More than half of people in Spain live in homes measuring between 75 and 90 square metres in size, and most of them consider this is too small for their needs, according to surveys of satisfaction levels which were carried out by some of the leading companies in the property sector after the coronavirus lockdown came to an end. "Often, the problem isn't so much the size of their home but the layout or even the way it is decorated," says interior designer Natalia Zubizarreta. If you would like to make the best use of the liveable area in your house or apartment and make it feel more spacious, here are some of her useful tips.

1. Walls and ceilings

Paint the whole house the same colour, ideally in a pale, natural tone

If you are one of those types of people who usually paints each room in a different colour, you will undoubtedly find this recommendation interesting. The first thing you need to do to gain space and make a room feel less cramped is unify the colour of the paint throughout your home. "The ideal is to use a pale, neutral tone for the walls, such

as stone, sand or beige, and white for the ceilings. That makes everywhere feel more spacious, and bright," says Natalia, whose work is often featured in Spanish decoration magazines.

In attic rooms and homes which have usable space in the attic, it is advisable to paint the ceilings and walls all the same colour.

2. Carpentry

Paint dark wooden doors and furniture to add more light

Another solution which is effective and doesn't involve any major works is to paint the wood in the house in a pale colour such as white or broken white, "from doors and wardrobes to kitchen cupboards and even dark wooden furniture which makes the room feel smaller," says Natalia. Interior designers agree that this simple trick can make an amazing difference.

3. Floors

Put the same pale laminate throughout the house, including the kitchen and the bathroom

Just as with the colour of the walls and ceiling, having the same flooring throughout the home will also give an impression of more space.

"Visually it gives us an im-



Painting all the walls of the house in the same pale colour will give a sensation of space and light

If some pieces of furniture in a room are rarely used, why not get rid of them altogether?

pression of continuity and fluidity. Also, it means we don't have to do anything to the existing floor. Just put a laminate or vinyl on top of the original and the problem is solved," says Natalia Zubizarreta.

If you would rather not do anything to the floor of your home, another option is just to add some large, pale-coloured rugs.

4. Furniture Leave empty spaces and use low, round-shaped furniture

"There is no need to be afraid of empty spaces. If you want to make a room feel more spacious, you need to remember the old saying, that less is more," says Natalia.

In fact, she recommends that any furniture that isn't used should be removed altogether.

"Sometimes in a living room we have a coffee table, side tables, a sideboard, a TV table, a sofa, armchairs, and we don't need all that! If a piece of furniture is more of a hindrance than useful, get rid of it. For example, most clients with children don't want a coffee table in their living room these days, because it is a nuisance in the way they live their lives," she says.

Another trick is to avoid large, heavy furniture. "It's always better if the furniture is no higher than your line of sight. The pieces which are round in shape, such as a dining table, for example, and those which have a light structure provide a feeling of space," says Natalia.

Multi-purpose furniture such as folding beds or sideboards that convert into dining tables are useful for gaining more usable space in a home.

"We have to be honest with ourselves about what we really need. We have to be practical and forget about what is conven-

tional. We are who we are and we are the ones who live in our homes, we are not visitors. If you only eat in your dining room four times a year, wouldn't it be more useful to keep a board and some supports in your storeroom or a cupboard which you can use when you need a table, instead of having one taking up so much space in your main living area?" she says.

5. Decoration Try to place mirrors so they reflect the window

As well as the fact that "decoratively they are coming back into

fashion," mirrors can really help to make a room feel bigger. "Ideally, they should be placed so they reflect windows or the part of the room furthest away from them," says Natalia.

6. Lighting Replace ceiling lights with some lamps

Lamps do not visually interrupt a room in the way that ceiling lights do, so they are a good option when trying to achieve a sense of space. "One way to increase this effect is to make lamps highlight something we want to draw attention to, for example the wall with the

bookshelves or a place where we have a mirror," says Natalia. Natural light is also very important, so the less the windows are covered, the better.

7. Layout Get rid of passageways and connect the kitchen and living room with a glazed panel

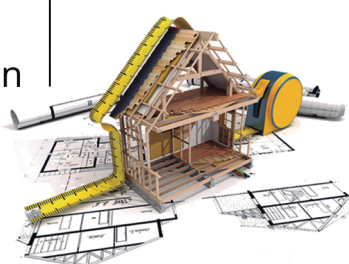
"If you decide to carry out improvements to the layout of your house or apartment, the most popular solution at present is to take down the wall that separates the kitchen from the living room and replace it with a glazed panel so the two

rooms are connected visually," says Natalia.

If you don't want to carry out any major works or your budget doesn't run to it, another alternative is to create a window between the two rooms. In any case, the most effective way to make space is to get rid of the hallway and passageway if possible. "Or if you're not keen on everything being so open-plan, another very simple and effective idea to gain space without losing privacy is to remove the double doors to the living room and paint the frame white," says Natalia.

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Ideas and tips for furnishing and the use of soft furnishings in your rental, holiday rental or investment property in Spain

MARBELLA-MIJAS

Sur. Why poly/cotton bedding? For easy care and price, Poly/ Cotton bedding is popular. The mixture of polyester and cotton makes laundering and ironing easier than if the bedding is just cotton (in most cases). The poly/cotton blend is also slightly cheaper, so if you are expecting that you may need to be replacing bed linen on a regular basis, perhaps because your target market are groups of young people or hen party /stag parties, this may be a good option. Our Essentials poly/ cotton ranges feel soft to the touch and are washable at 60 degrees which is ideal for industrial laundering. All of the essential ranges (poly/cotton – basic cotton and 200 thread count percale) are sold as separates meaning, if you need to replace a damaged duvet cover, you can just buy a duvet cover not a full set – keeping down the costs.

Why buy white? Thousands of hotels cannot have got it wrong!



White can be bleached, white can be washed with white, so all of your laundry can be washed together making it easier and cheaper on the laundering costs, and white can be replaced with white – we have seen it, time and time again, where a lovely patterned bedding set has had a pillowcase ruined by nail varnish or fake tan and so a bedding set has been left incomplete – with white, a stained pillowcase can be replaced quickly,

easily and without breaking the bank! This is with the exception of towels, although white is still the most popular colour for towels in a rental property. In recent years, we have seen a swing towards colours such as beige, taupe and grey and the reason being- fake tan! Many sun-tan lotions and face/body lotions, that are popular to use on holiday, contain some kind of fake or self-tan, which can be really difficult to remove from white tow-

els, and the neutral coloured towels seem to not show up so much the slight orange residue of fake tan that can be left even after a multitude of washing!

Why Cotton? We are all becoming more aware of the possible harmful effects of anything man-made, may it be through chemicals or plastics polluting our planet or having a detrimental effect on our bodies. Sustainability and natural are words that we use with more and more frequency. Cotton is the most natural of fibres; it's breathable and cool in the summer. Many clients may expect cotton bedding, it's more normal, especially in Northern European countries, to use 100 % cotton bedding and we have a number of ranges starting with a basic cotton in our Essentials range, 200 thread count percale, 300 thread count sateen, 450 thread count pima cotton, 540 thread count hotel stripe and 1000 thread count. Some of these ranges are available in colours such as oyster, platinum, ivory, mulberry as well as the standard white. When advertising a rental property, the key words, such as cotton or luxurious, Egyptian cotton bedding, in the description of your property, can make the difference between someone renting from you or the other property they may be looking at. Everyone enjoys that hotel

experience in a nice bed with luxurious linen! In our cotton ranges we hold five key-sizes in duvets and duvet covers SINGLE, DOUBLE, KING, SUPER KING and EMPEROR SIZE. The fitted sheets and mattress protectors, we hold as stock lines, encompass every size, including small Spanish singles 80 cm, regular single of 90cm, large single of 105 cm, three-quarter guest-bed 120 cm, standard double 135 cm, Scandinavian double 140cm, Regular King size of 150 cm, Scandinavian / European King 160 cm, Super king size 180 cm and Emperor size 200 cm; all of which come as an adjustable length from 190 to 200 cm in length. In the 200 and 300 thread count you will also find extra-long sheets in the bigger sizes such as 200 x 210cm and 200 x 220.

Find the Marbella shop on the Golden Mile opposite Da- Brunos restaurant. The large warehouse-style store, in Mijas Costa, is near to the Myramar Shopping Area, behind Decathlon.

The website www.yorkshirelinen.es is a fully functioning web-store and deliveries are free, over 60 euros, to all of mainland Spain. If you need help or guidance, there is a personal shopper service on the website or this can also be accessed by Whatsapp on 0034 626 14 77 03.

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