

CEDAR HILL FARMHOUSE

# 25 OF MY BEST DESIGN TIPS

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I consider myself a lifelong learner. I love to absorb new ideas and inspiration, always. I figure you are the same way. We'll all looking to soak up as much design knowledge as we can, so we can make our homes as beautiful as possible.

I wanted to summarize my top ideas for you and put them all in one place, and here you go. This is a the top 25 design ideas I've learned over the past 30 or so years.

1. Mix formal with informal for a more interesting look.
2. Dishes work everywhere.



3. A big rug is much better than a smaller one. The smaller ones often end up looking skimpy.
4. A room that invites always trumps a room that is decorated to impress.
5. Too much on a wall can look confusing.



6. Only follow trends you really like.
7. Buy fewer nice things, rather than many not so nice things.



8. A piece of furniture with a gorgeous shape and ugly paint or stain can easily be fixed with paint.
9. Look for non-traditional wall art like architectural elements



10. Every room needs lights and darks. An all white room needs something dark to anchor it. A dark room needs something light to lift it.

11. A cluttered room feels stressful, so keep clutter to a minimum.



12. Collect what you love and display it.



13. Too many patterns can make a room feel too busy.

14. Decorate rooms in a similar style for good flow in a home. If each room looks extremely different it can feel jarring.

15. Use the same wall color throughout your house as much as you can. It makes touch up easier. And it gives your home continuity.

16. Less stuff on kitchen counter tops makes the kitchen look cleaner.



17. Every room looks better with something vintage in it.

18. Antique and vintage furniture is often made better and has more detail than new.

19. Keep a silver pitcher for filling with fresh flowers or branches from the yard.



20. Use a pretty cup and saucer for your daily tea or coffee.



21. Don't buy something just because it is the right color or goes with your theme. Make sure it can stand on its own.



22. Hide electronics whenever you can.



23. Use baskets to organize clutter.

24. Empty cloches and bottles look great most any where.



25. Add at least one wow to a room. It could be a piece of furniture, artwork or something else in the room.