



Interior Design

Guide for New Home Buyers



Start Smart, Not Stressed

Your Quick Start Checklist

Functional Pieces

Prioritize functional pieces (bed, sofa, dining table) before decorative items



Budget Finds

Mix budget-friendly finds from Facebook Marketplace, Amazon, or eBay with quality investment pieces



One Room

Furnish one room at a time instead of rushing to fill every space



Neutral Foundations

Start with neutral foundation pieces and add personality through accents



Give yourself months, not weeks, to curate a home that reflects your style

What to Buy First

Bedroom

Comfortable mattress and bedding are essentials.



Living Room

Sofa and coffee table for daily comfort.



Dining Room

Table and chairs for meals and gatherings.



Recommended order: Bedroom ➡ Living Room ➡ Dining Area ➡ Other Rooms

80%

Budget on daily-use pieces

20%

Budget for accents and décor

10-15 Years

Lifespan for
quality furniture

\$7000-\$10,000

Average Spend
for a full home

Tip: Shop end-of-season sales for investment pieces

Tip: Browse Facebook Marketplace, Amazon, & eBay
for everything else

Mix High and Low

Create character with smart furniture choices

Invest in Comfort

A quality sofa is a foundation piece in your living room, providing both comfort and style. Investing in a new, durable sofa with a solid frame ensures you'll enjoy it for years to come. This piece sets the tone for your space, making it cozy and inviting while offering long-lasting value.

Save on Accents

Coffee tables and side tables are the perfect opportunity to find unique, budget-friendly options. Consider sourcing these items from local marketplaces or thrift stores for one-of-a-kind pieces that add character. Mixing in found items with your investment sofa creates an eclectic vibe, personalizing your space without overspending.





Measure Everything

- Measure doorways, hallways, stairwells, and the actual room
- Create a floor plan using graph paper or RoomSketcher app
- Allow 30 inches of clearance between furniture pieces for walkways
- Confirm measurements when shopping online (Facebook Marketplace, Amazon, eBay)
- Remember: A sofa that blocks your only outlet isn't a deal

Choose Fabric Before Paint

- Choose your sofa and major upholstered pieces BEFORE picking paint colors
- It's easier to match wall paint to a sofa you love than to find a sofa to match paint
- Fabric swatches are easier to carry to the paint store than paint chips to furniture stores
- This single tip saves time and money
- Start with neutrals: gray, beige, navy, or warm wood tones
- Add personality through pillows, artwork, rugs, lighting, and plants



Layer Your Home with Light

Ambient

General illumination for overall warmth



Task

Focused lighting for specific activities



Accent

Highlighting art and decor features



- Living Room Formula: 1 overhead fixture + 2 table lamps + 1 floor lamp
- Bedroom Formula: Overhead light + bedside lamps on each side of bed
- Find unique or affordable lamps at thrift stores, Facebook Marketplace, and Amazon

INVESTMENT GUIDE

Worth It vs. Budget-Friendly

While La-Z-Boy Southeast carries tables, lamps, rugs, and accessories for every room, these are categories where shopping around on Facebook Marketplace, Amazon, or eBay can stretch your budget further. When you're ready to invest in major pieces, take advantage of free design consultations at La-Z-Boy Southeast to avoid costly mistakes like buying furniture that's too large for your space.



WORTH THE INVESTMENT:

- Mattresses and bed frames (you spend 1/3 of your life here)
- Sofas with solid wood frames and quality cushions
- Dining tables in solid wood or quality veneers
- Ergonomic desk chairs if you work from home

FINE TO BUY BUDGET OR SECONDHAND:

- Coffee tables and side tables
- Dressers and storage pieces
- Decorative accents and lighting
- Outdoor furniture (it weathers regardless of price)
- Bookshelves and media consoles

Your Home, Your Timeline

- The most stylish homes aren't decorated in a weekend—they're curated over months and years
- Live in your space for a few weeks before making major purchases
- That perfect vintage credenza will appear on Facebook Marketplace when you're patient
- The highly-rated dining chairs on Amazon or mid-century finds on eBay will show up
- Start with basics you need to function, then add pieces as you find them
- Focus on making your home: functional first → comfortable → then beautiful
- There's no deadline—perpetual works in progress are actually ideal





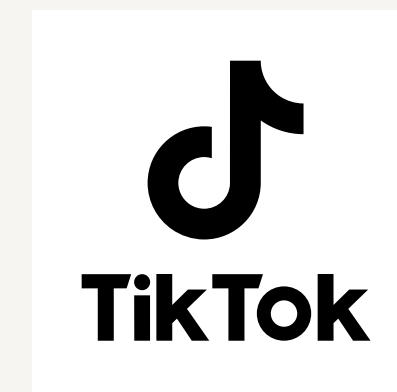
Free Design Help

What We Offer:

- Free design consultations at all La-Z-Boy Southeast locations
- Help with space planning, sizing, and color coordination
- Expert guidance on choosing pieces that work together
- Avoid costly mistakes like furniture that's too large or doesn't fit your style
- No pressure, just professional advice for your biggest furniture decisions

Get In Touch

Visit Any of our 8
La-Z-Boy Southeast
Locations in NC, SC
& GA for Your
Design Needs



@lazboysoutheast