

7 small living room layout mistakes design experts want you to avoid – and what to do instead



(Image credit: Bartone Interiors/Lissa Gotwals)

Make these small living room mistakes and your space will look smaller and darker, feel cramped and cluttered, and be dysfunctional.

After all, more compact living spaces have a ton of work to do, whether they are single spaces or part of an open-plan arrangement. It's likely you'll spend time there relaxing, entertaining, working and maybe even eating.

So, before you even think wall colors and couch materials, let's help you get those small living room layouts perfected. Experts tell us what to avoid, and how to get it right.

5. NOT USING FURNITURE TO CREATE OPEN-PLAN ZONES



(Image credit: Bartone Interiors/Lissa Gotwals)

'I can't say this enough: please, please don't put your furniture on the exterior walls of the room! Floating your furniture in the middle not only makes the space appear larger, it's easier circulation to get in and out of the seating area. I promise it will make your space look and feel larger. Add an area rug to ground the space and you're set!' says Kristin Bartone, creative director and principal of [Bartone Interiors](#).

It is also, the perfect way to zone an open plan space, with a long sofa providing a barrier between seating and eating, for example.