PATRICIA GRAY INTERIOR DESIGN

Patricia Gray of Patricia Gray Interior Design in Vancouver agrees nothing can change the mood of a room more dramatically than lighting. “When homeowners do it on their own, the biggest mistake they make is with lighting. Lighting can make or break a space.” For an original look, she suggests an accent light fixture that becomes a focal point for the room.

Gray’s second pet peeve is the inexpensive “disposable” sofa. A couch is often the biggest furniture investment homeowners make and there’s no excuse for cutting corners. “People should really hire a professional to help them with that,” she says. “A sofa that’s a classic piece is like having the perfect black dress. It just works and all you need to do is accessorize it.”

Her third piece of advice is paint – there’s nothing like a new colour to freshen a house and change the mood. “One colour doesn’t cost more than another,” she says. “And yet it can make all the difference in the world.”