



Photo Credit : Stephani Buchman

# TOP SHELF : Tips for Choosing and Styling Shelves

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## CHOOSING the RIGHT SHELVES

**Despite their primary purpose of storage and organization, shelves are much more than just functional pieces of furniture; they are also powerful design elements that can transform the look and feel of your home. Whether you opt for open shelving to showcase your favourite items, or custom-built shelves to maximize the corners and crannies, your choices can significantly impact your home's overall aesthetic.**

Before you can start styling, ensure you have the right shelves for your space. Consider the following factors:

### Functionality:

Assess the purpose of the shelves. Are they primarily for storage, display or a combination of both? If storage is a priority, consider closed cabinets or a mix of open and closed shelving to hide clutter while showcasing your favorite pieces.

### Space and Scale:

Measure the available space where the shelves will be installed to ensure a proper fit. Pay attention to the scale of the room. In smaller spaces, floating shelves can create the illusion of more space, while larger rooms can accommodate substantial bookshelves or custom-built units.

### Material and Style:

Choose materials that complement your existing decor. Wood adds warmth, while metal or glass can lend to a more modern look. Also consider the overall style of your home

### Open Shelving:

Open shelving has gained popularity for its ability to create an airy and visually appealing display, while keeping certain items easily on hand. Just remember that with this design choice, curation is key.

### Custom Shelving:

Custom shelving allows you to maximize space and tailor the design to your specific needs.:

**Built-In Versatility:** Design built-in shelves cater to the unique features of your home, such as alcoves or corners. Incorporate a mix of open and closed storage

Now that you have the right shelves in place, some thoughtful accessorizing will finish the look. Start with a cohesive colour palette This creates a unified and visually pleasing look. Introduce pops of colour or bold black accents through decorative items like vases, books and artwork to create visual interest.

Your accessories should incorporate a variety of textures, such as ceramics, woven baskets , to add depth and tactile appeal. Experiment with different materials to strike a balance between smooth and rough surfaces for a more dynamic look. Mix and match items of varying heights, shapes, and textures to add interest and prevent monotony.

**Choosing and styling shelves is a creative process that allows you to showcase your personality and enhance the overall style and function of your home. By carefully selecting the right shelves and accessorizing with colour and texture, you can transform your home into a space that is both functional and aesthetically pleasing.**