

AUTUMN EDIT: *Cosy up with on-trend buys*

# REAL HOMES

MAKE YOUR DREAM HOME A REALITY

EASY WAYS  
TO TRANSFORM  
EVERY ROOM

DESIGN SECRETS  
OF THE  
INSTA-FAMOUS  
MAKE THEIR  
STYLE WORK  
FOR YOU

ONE-STOP  
SOFA SHOP  
VELVET DESIGNS  
YOU'LL LOVE

VIBRANT  
ORIGINAL  
STYLISH

SHOWSTOPPING HOMES  
FILLED WITH CLEVER IDEAS

Warm up with woodburners and radiators | Revamp your hallway | The latest kitchen and bathroom buys | How to get a happier home life | Loft conversions to inspire you | Why house plants are a must | Is upcycling worth it? | Chic shutters for windows

NOVEMBER 2018

REALHOMES.COM

ISSUE 235  
PRINTED IN THE UK £3.99  
11  
9 1771464 406240

FUTURE

# Hallways

(WORTH COMING HOME TO)

Banish the daily coat and boot-strewn battle to reach your front door with our guide to achieving a properly grown-up hallway to be proud of

As transient thoroughfares to rooms where you linger for longer, hallways are frequently neglected on the decorating schedule. Before (not very) long, they descend into a dumping ground of outerwear, umbrellas, pizza flyers and general detritus. This would all be perfectly fine if we were talking about boot rooms or the back of the garage, but the hallway is your first chance to make a good impression. It's also the first place you stop to take a deep breath after a busy day out and about, so it really does deserve a more prominent position on your decorating leaderboard.

Make getting, and keeping, the clutter under control your number one priority. Invest in multitasking solutions like seats with built-in storage or console tables with drawers for loose change and receipts. Include somewhere to drop your keys and a shelf to stash any post that needs attention – out of sight is out of mind. If you have children, double the hanging capacity of your walls with dual-height coat hooks. A named hook might encourage them not to ditch their school bags in the middle of the floor but we can't promise anything.

Speaking of children, and/or untrained partners, it probably won't matter what type or volume of shoe storage you provide, there will always be a trail of abandoned trainers from the front door to wherever the TV lives. Still, it doesn't hurt to be optimistic, so do factor in at least one shoe rack, ideally located somewhere that is hard to miss. A welly rack that holds boots upside down will help protect your floors from mud.

Now to the fun part – making it pretty. Many interior designers are adamant that your hallway's décor should set the tone for what's to come, and be dressed in colours and finishes that flow smoothly into adjoining rooms. Others are equally committed to a contrasting scheme with its own personality that aims to impress. Whichever path you take, it always helps to take design cues from your home's architecture and, of course, there is plenty of online inspiration. Trawl your favourite Pinterest and Instagram haunts for ideas and to see how things work/look in real life settings. As long as the décor makes you happy (and those shoes are locked down), it'll always feel like a welcome home.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Stash away the clobber and add a splash of colour with some stylish hallway accessories



Palm Leaf five-light pendant, £250, Laura Ashley



Metal with wooden ball hooks, £8, Sainsbury's Home



Chedworth six-shoe locker, £145, Garden Trading



Vintage-style storage rack, £46.90, The Farthing



Quartet Kilim runner, £170, Habitat

Walls painted in Crown Feature Wall Breatheasy matt emulsion – main in Midnight Navy; top wall in Chartreuse Mix – both £14.50 for 1.25ltrs, Crown



In a narrow hallway, placing mirrors along one wall and painting the wall opposite in a vibrant colour is a tried and tested technique that never fails. Decent lighting will also counteract the gloom of a north-facing or windowless hallway. A single ceiling pendant is often enough. Remember to set it far enough back from the door to avoid a clash. Add wall lights or uplighters along the floor to further highlight your passage through the house.



It'll be well-trodden, so hallway flooring must be hardwearing. If you choose carpet, it should be designed specifically for stair and hallway use, and include a doormat at the entrance. Wood's warm underfoot – nice if you don't wear slippers. A tiled floor can be mopped clean – pick muted dirt-hiding shades for extra ease. Again, make sure they are suitable for hallway use; porcelain is tougher than ceramic.



As a transient space, you can risk using stronger colours in the hall than you might dare to in the rest of your house. Repainting any disastrous decisions won't be hard, as long as you stick to ground level walls, not the double-height stair wall. Choose a washable paint, or a scrubbable formula like Dulux's Easycare range. A coat of Polyvine's Decorator's Varnish will further protect the colour.



#### DIY INSTAGRAMMER

### ALEX CRABTREE

'My husband and I moved to this two-bed apartment from a bigger Victorian home two years ago. The walls were white, and while we have fabulously high ceilings, there wasn't much character, so I've had to add that. The hallways are quite narrow and my style is unashamedly maximalist, yet filling the walls with artwork and curios hasn't made them feel smaller; perhaps because there's so much to look at. Switching the bland carpet for a striped one was a game-changer. Barbeline's D'Amour wallpaper has totally transformed the top hall – it's a delight to come upstairs. We've kept the walls white up the stairs, which helps with light flow. This gave us the confidence to paint the downstairs hallway in Plimsoll by Paint & Paper Library.'

**Instagram and Twitter:**  
**@alexcrabtreepr;**  
**alexcrabtreepr.co.uk**

