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**2023 Furniture Design Trends**

Furniture design is leaning into natural shapes, hard surfaces and sleek style in 2023. According to top designers interviewed by *Architectural Digest*, here are six furniture trends you can expect to see this year.

**NEOLITHIC DESIGN**

You don't need a man cave to furnish your home in neolithic style. While not everyone will embrace stone or metal furniture, these solid pieces work well to balance softer, rounded shapes and surfaces.

**LINEAR, ULTRA-PLANED STYLE**

Fans of Scandinavian design will be pleased with plenty of selections in this minimalist style. Introduce this trend into your space with a modern chair or unique lamp.

**BURL WOOD**

With roots in the 1930s Art Deco furniture design, today's burl wood has a new, modern look. This knotty blond wood has a beautiful natural finish that works well with many decorating styles. It's a popular choice for folks who like subtle ornamentation as well as those who prefer using natural, sustainable materials.

**SHAPELY SIDE TABLES**

Add a touch of personality with a fun side table. A small, offbeat table can bring an attractive focal point to your living room.

**SEA-INSPIRED TEXTURES AND SHAPES**

Invite the ocean into your home with organic materials that recall natural aspects of the sea, such as coral and marine plant life. Lighting fixtures or coffee tables with an airy, ocean vibe can add interest and texture to your home.

**NATURAL, UNDERSTATED FLOORING**

The cooler, neutral flooring of the past few years is making way for warmer, subdued tones and geometric designs.

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**Does Your Home Need a Water Softener?**

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Water softeners remove calcium, magnesium and other minerals. While not every household needs a water softener, if you're having any of the following issues, it might be time to consider installing one.

#### **DRY SKIN AND HAIR**

The minerals in hard water can cause multiple skin issues, including dryness, itching, flaking, breakouts, and inflammation. They can also make your hair dull and dry.

#### **DINGY LAUNDRY**

If items come out of the washing machine looking gray or faded, hard water might be making your detergent less effective, leaving a scummy residue on your clothes.

#### **WATER HEATER WOES**

If your water heater breaks down, it may be due to a buildup of hard water scale in the tank and on the heating elements.

#### **MINERAL DEPOSITS**

A hard, chalky film on shower heads, coffee pots, glassware, or dinnerware may be limescale caused by hard water.

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## **How To Extend the Life of Your Outdoor Living Space**

One of life's simple luxuries is an evening spent outdoors delighting in the warmth and soft breezes of the season. But time and weather can take a toll on porches, decks and patios, so consider these do's and don'ts for your outdoor living space.

**DO** pressure wash and stain wood decks every couple of years. **DON'T** use harsh chemicals like bleach on hardwood or natural stone, and avoid stiff wire brushes. **DON'T** sand unless necessary, but **DO** fix loose nails and split boards. **DON'T** forget to routinely check railings and stairs.

To protect wood decks and porches, **DO** use a 2-in-1 product that stains and seals in one step. Natural stone patios generally **DON'T** require sealing unless you prefer a shiny, wet look.

**DO** keep spaces clear of debris and leaves, which can trap moisture and cause mold and mildew. **DO** move furniture and rugs around once a year, especially in damp climates, to prevent moisture from settling in.

**DO** put up some twinkly lights, relax and enjoy your outdoor space.

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## **Surprising Things You Can Machine Wash**

If you have miscellaneous items around your house that could use a good cleaning and want to see them sparkle again, consider using your washing machine.

#### **Sneakers**

Put your canvas or faux leather sneakers through a gentle cycle with warm water. Remove laces and insoles before washing.

#### **Toys**

You can wash children's plastic and rubber toys on a sanitize cycle. Run another cycle with your pet's chew toys. Remember to keep them in a washable bag to reduce noise during the spin cycle.

#### **Car Mats**

Vacuum pet hair, dirt and dust before washing floor mats on a gentle cycle. Wash them in small batches to avoid overstuffing the machine. Lay flat to dry.

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## Cheesy Breakfast Toast

### Ingredients

4 slices sourdough bread  
1 pint cherry tomatoes, rinsed and sliced  
¼ cup fresh basil, finely chopped  
¼ cup olive oil  
¼ cup lemon juice  
4 oz. cream cheese  
½ tsp. sea salt  
½ tsp. pepper

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350° F. Put bread on a baking sheet and toast for 10 minutes, turning halfway through. Mix sliced tomatoes and basil in medium bowl. Stir in olive oil and lemon juice. Remove toast from oven and immediately spread with cream cheese. Top with tomato and basil mixture. Garnish with sea salt and pepper.



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