

interior
event
floral



design

Lynne Pearce
design

stylish solutions for everyday life

DESIGNER'S GUIDE TO MEASUREMENTS & PLACEMENT

(how high, how big & how many)

LIGHTING

1. Chandeliers over dining tables should be hung so the bottom of the fixture is 30" – 34" from the top of the table. When the ceiling height is over 8', you can add 3" per foot.
2. Pendant lights over kitchen islands should be hung so the bottom of the fixture is 30" – 36" from the top of the island.
3. Lights hung in traffic areas, such as an entry, should be hung so the bottom of fixture is at least 7 feet from the ground.

BATHROOM

1. The ideal height for a showerhead is 77" – 81"
2. The toilet-paper holder should be hung at a height of 26" and 8" – 12" from the rim of the toilet.
3. There should be at least a 30" clearance in front of the vanity, toilet and tub.

KITCHEN

1. The standard depth of an upper cabinet is 12".
2. The standard depth of a countertop is 25".
3. The standard counter height is 36"
4. The standard island height is 36" – 42" (based on the type of seating).
5. A comfortable distance between the top of a stool and the bottom of the counter is 10".
6. The ideal distance between an island and countertops is 48".
7. The ideal distance between countertop and upper cabinets is 15" – 18".
8. The microwave should be mounted at 54" (or 3" below your shoulder).
9. For an island height of 36", the overhang should be 15". For an island height of 42", the overhang should be 12".

ARTWORK

1. Artwork should be hung so the middle of the art is 57" from the floor (or at eye level).
2. When hanging art over a sofa, the bottom of the art should be 5" – 8" from the top of the sofa.
3. When hanging art over a table or mantle, the bottom of the art should be 4" – 8" from the top of the table.
4. Artwork hung in groupings should be spaced 2" – 3" apart.

FAMILY ROOM

1. Viewing distance from your television depends on the screen size: 40" – 5 to 8 feet; 46" – 6 to 10 feet; 52" – 7 to 11 feet.
2. Area rugs should be large enough so that the front legs of all furniture are on top of the rug.
3. Drapery panels should hit the floor or have a break of 1.5".
4. The curtain rod should be hung at least 3" from the top of the window casing, or as close to the ceiling as possible to create the illusion of height.
5. Curtain rods should extend at least 3"-5" past the window casing. For smaller windows, extending the rod even further will make them appear larger.
6. When accessorizing, odd numbers are visually more interesting than even.
7. Use different shapes and sizes of throw pillows to create a more interesting look.
8. The ideal distance between the sofa and coffee table is 18" – 24".

BEDROOM

1. Standard mattress sizes: twin 39" x 75"; full 54" x 75"; queen 60" x 80"; king 76" x 80"; California king 72" x 84".
2. The top of the nightstand should be about the same as the top of your mattress. The standard height for most nightstands is 26" – 28".
3. Area rugs under a bed should extend 24" - 36" beyond the bed.
4. The bottom of the shade on your bedside lamp should be at the same height as your chin when sitting in bed.
5. Dressing area in front of a closet should be 4 feet.

DINING ROOM

1. You need a minimum of 36" between table and wall or buffet to comfortably rise and push back chair from table.
2. Most dining tables are 30" high and seat height is typically at 18".
3. Typical table sizes: 72" long will comfortably seat 6; 96" long will comfortably seat 8; 120" long will comfortably seat 10; 36" – 48" round will comfortably seat 4; 60" round will comfortably seat 6; 72" round will comfortably seat 8.
4. Allow a minimum of 24" per guest, 30" for more elbow room.
5. An area rug under a dining table should extend 24" – 30" beyond the perimeter of the table.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. The standard placement for wall switches is 48" from the floor.
2. Chair rail heights should be 1/3 the distance of the ceiling height. For an 8 foot ceiling they should be installed about 32" from the floor.
3. The 1/3 rule applies to wainscoting as well. For a ceiling height of 8 foot the top of the wainscoting would be at 32", including the cap. For taller wainscoting, cap it at 2/3 the height of the ceiling.
4. A standard bookcase is 12" – 15" deep.