



TRENDS

The coffee table isn't just for books



BY EVELYN ESHUN

What's the hardest working piece of furniture in your family room? I'll give you one guess: it cradles your feet, it works as a dining surface, a place to play cards and sometimes even a dance floor, for those who know how to have fun!

Your trusty coffee table, also known as a cocktail table, is a piece of furniture which sits in front of your sofa or lounge chairs. The coffee table often holds beverages, but more often everything else which finds its way into your hands.

The general rule is that the coffee table needs to be 16-inches to 18-inches from the sofa or chairs in front of it in order to be easily accessible, other than that, the sky's the limit as to what this furniture needs to look like or what material it is made of.

The coffee table should be made of sturdy materials and roughly three-quarters the size of the sofa. It should also be about 16 to 18 inches high. Once you get the rules out of the way, the coffee table can be saddled with the responsibility of expressing

your personality. For me, this piece of furniture can really set the tone for the style and décor of your space, from rustic to glamorous.

The coffee table has to work hard, whether in a busy family home, or a small condominium. Storage ottomans and Nesting tables are fantastic for this purpose.

All you need is a decorative tray perched on top of the ottoman for added functionality. How about a fun table available at Decorium which mimics a trunk but opens up with hidden drawers and openings.

A fan of the "coffee table"? That I am! If I can give one tip, it's to not make it your afterthought. It will be the piece which will be at the center of your activities, so it is a good place to establish your design style. I like to head out to Decorium with the newest location in Summerhill, since they are one of the best retailers in the city to find

an endless supply of furniture options — especially that special coffee table for your home.

Tips

- Use the 18 inch rule — 18-inches high and 18 inches from the chairs or sofa
- Glass coffee tables will allow you to see the floor below it and therefore open up the space visually
- Don't limit yourself to one — if you can't find the right size, buy two and place them side by side
- Consider who is using the table to decide on the material. A distressed wood finish will not look "stressed" with the occasional meal spill or accidental drawing outside the lines incident
- A table with four legs allows you to slide your feet under and use it as a dining surface.
- Ottomans make great coffee tables, are soft on the heels and, just lay a tray on top and, voila, you have a spot for drinks



From rustic to functional, coffee tables are more than just a place to set your book or beverage.

