

# How to Arrange Your Furniture



This will hopefully help you to know where to **put your furniture**. The most important part is to first toss away the junk, move the bed and make sure there is nothing underneath it, and get ready to arrange.

## **Steps**

1. **Determine what purpose the space the furniture occupies has and the purpose of each piece of furniture.** This will have an effect on how space might be divided up and furniture arranged. Some furniture may not belong in a given space.
  - **Primary Conversation Area:**
    - 8-12 feet in diameter is ideal
    - Seats 4-6 people
  - **Secondary Conversation Area:**
    - Seating for just 1-3 people
  - **Dining Area:**
    - Allow 3 feet from the table edge for the person to be seated at the table and room behind for traffic.
    - Each person is allowed a minimum of 24 inches of seating room at the table.
2. **Measure the room and write down its dimensions.** Do the same for your furniture.
3. Make a flat scale drawing of the room using graph paper as if seen from above. (For example: 1 little square represents one quarter of a square foot [3"] and four of those equal one square foot.) You may want to shade the floor close to what is already there (beige if the carpet is beige) if there is a need to coordinate colors - just make sure you can see the lines on your graph paper.

4. **Draw flat scale drawings of your furniture as if seen from above.** Don't get too detailed. At the very least you need the size and shape in relation to the room; Color the piece if you think it's important and then label it.
5. **Consider the following traffic flow / spacing guidelines:**
  - **Spaces that need 36''-6' clearance:**
    - Hallways
    - In front of clothes closets, dressers and chests of drawers
    - Any route where 2 people might pass each other
    - In front of stove, refrigerator, sink, washer and dryer areas
    - From the edge of a dining room table to a wall or stationary object.
    - Sides of bed you get in
    - 4' or more for stairways.
  - **Spaces that need 18''-4' clearance:**
    - Sides of beds used only for making the bed
    - Between sofas & coffee tables
    - 30" in routes where only one person will walk such as in front of tubs or through doorways.
    - There should be at least 30" of clearance in front of the bath tub, shower, toilet and/or sink.
6. **Take your scale drawing of the room's floor plan and rearrange the scale drawn pieces of furniture** on it until you see a configuration you like and think works best for the space and furniture's purposes and traffic flow. Tape the pieces down with small pieces of tape (so that you can easily move them if you change your mind) and begin preparing to move your furniture into that configuration.
7. **You have two options for moving the furniture:**
  - Move everything out of the room; or
  - Move pieces little by little.
8. Regardless of your above choice the following steps are applicable:
  - Move the first piece to where you want it to go, and keep going from there.
  - Move all the things outside your door back into your room.

## ***Tips***

- Clean your room before you move the furniture.
- Decide whether or not the furniture in the room should be kept. It should serve the room's purpose and be on the scale of the room -a small room should have small pieces of furniture and large room should have large pieces. If a large room cannot be filled with large pieces of furniture, divide the space up using the smaller pieces of furniture available arranged around / anchored by an area rug.
- Use a computer application such as Visio to help draw up your scale drawings.

- Area rugs not only work to bring color, texture and interest to a room but work as traffic flow guides and indications of transition from one area to another. Arrange furniture around or on top of area rugs. (A coffee table would be placed on top of an area rug, for example, and furniture arranged around that.)
- Clean the furniture before moving it back in place. It may be a long time before you bother to move that piece again for thorough cleaning.
- Vacuum the floor afterwards.
- If you have wooden floors, put a piece of old carpet or a rag under each leg before you move an item of furniture; it will slide more easily and won't scratch the floor. Leave it there after you have finished to avoid damaging the floor.
- If you are moving pieces on carpet consider moving pads or placing pieces of cardboard or wood on the floor so that furniture slides more easily.
- Feng Shui Tips:
  - Put the bed up against a wall in a commanding position in view of the door.
  - Have a headboard for the bed.
  - Don't position a bed at the low end of a pitched ceiling or under a ceiling fan.

## ***Warnings***

- Do not move furniture in a messy room!
- Be careful and do not move anything that is too heavy for you!