

LC & CO MEASUREMENT GUIDE

PENDANTS & CHANDELIERS

Pendants and chandeliers are fantastic styles of lighting which can add light and personality to a room. Various designs can work as a statement piece for a dramatic and stylish effect, or you can select a shade to blend in with the ambience of the environment.

Before making your purchase, consider the main function of this type of lighting. Do you need to brighten a room to perform household tasks? How big is the space to fit the shade?

When you're choosing a pendant or chandelier, bear in mind that they are measured without including the chain height. The actual height is taken from the highest point of the fitting to its lowest hanging point. The chain height is then added to this measurement.

Choose a pendant or chandelier that is proportionate to the room. Pendants and chandeliers can make a small room feel crowded. If you have low ceilings, the shorter the pendant you'll need, which will also affect how big a pendant you can purchase, so the area doesn't look cluttered.

To choose the right size, add the length and width of the room together and divide that number by 12. The result is equivalent to the size of pendant you can pick to fit appropriately.

Homes with larger ceilings have greater choice, as there is more space to pick out larger pieces, to layer pendants and create a breathtaking result. However, in a big room, short pendant lighting can look lost.

Once you know the length of the pendant, for a hallway, living room or bedroom, leave at least 2.3 metres to allow enough space for people to walk underneath. If the pendant or chandelier is to sit above a table or kitchen surface, leave 70-90cm from the bottom of the pendant to the top of the work surface.

SELECTING THE RIGHT DINING TABLE

Dining tables can be the focal point of a room and are deceptively one of the largest pieces of furniture you will buy. A place where people come together, used for hosting dinner parties; spending time together as a family: a dining table is an investment piece, so you want to ensure it fits and complements the room to function as you desire.

Using newspaper, lay out an accurate measurement of your future dining table to determine how the rest of the room will work with this item in place. When choosing a dining table, consider the use and the amount of diners you would like to sit. As a guide, each diner should have at least 2ft of eating space between the next person.

Are you going to place furniture behind the dining table? This is where the newspaper trick works well, as you can reposition the layout to see if any additional furniture will fit in the table to wall clearance. Measure from

the edge of the wall to where you would like to place your dining table, allowing enough space for people to move past, pull out their chair and sit down. If you are adding a rug underneath the dining table, account for 50cm of space for the chair to pull out, so it doesn't catch on the edge of the rug. Add this measurement to the space available from wall to table to ensure there's adequate room for people to pass by.

Round tables are excellent space savers, as they can fit in tight spaces and seat a number of diners. If you're looking for a table to seat more people, round tables with a pedestal base are perfect as there's less chance of diners hitting their knees on the table legs. Pedestal base tables are also helpful for those eventualities where you have a surprise extra guest and need to add an extra chair. Bear in mind, the larger a round table, the trickier it can be to reach for food if you're putting on a spread.

Rectangle tables are fabulous at seating large numbers of guests. These styles of dining tables fit well in narrow rooms and create space for walk flow. As an alternative, oval tables are fantastic at seating large numbers of diners whilst creating space in a rectangle room. Similar to the round table design, you can fit more chairs, and if you're entertaining several guests, oval tables allow conversation to flow as there isn't an obvious head of the table.

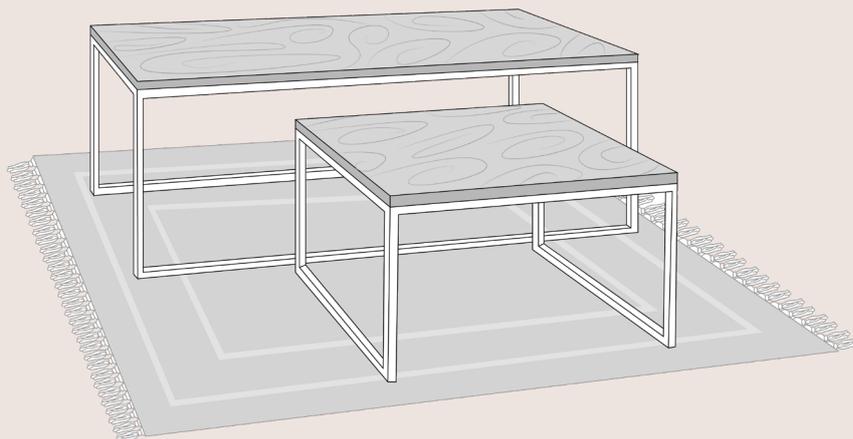
CHOOSING THE RIGHT RUG

Add warmth, style and sophistication to your scheme by choosing a high-quality rug that fits the room in mind. Rugs can soften, add texture and improve the acoustics in the home. Whether you're placing a rug to unify or break up a room, a well-made rug can last forever, but an ill-fitting rug can change the tranquillity and design of the interior.

Choosing a rug is a great way of adding character to a room, without having to overpower the entire floor space. If you're picking a bold, patterned carpet, it's best to design your interior around this piece, so the rest of the furniture will complement its personality.

When fitting a rug to your room, select the biggest size rug possible that will fit. A large rug that fits underneath furniture can create flow, a sense of space and unify the room.

However, the wrong sized rug can make a room feel smaller and out of place. Rugs wider and longer than the furniture will prevent this from happening. Large rugs work best sitting directly underneath furniture, for example, larger than the dining area. Allow 50cm of space between the chair once it's tucked under the dining table, so once it's pulled out, it doesn't catch on the rug edge.



If you're placing a rug in the living room, position the feet of the sofa and side tables half on and off a rug to create fluidity, leaving a small gap between the rug and perimeter of the room. If you're considering buying a rug for a bedroom, ensure the rug is larger than the bed and will sit in line with the side tables.

Smaller rugs can restructure a room, and can be placed within the sofa space or behind the seating area leading to the adjoining room. Another option is to place two smaller rugs either side of the bed for comfort as you step out.

In the hallway, match runners to accompany the carpet on the stairs to add warmth to a wooden or tiled space. Long runners can also restructure a room that's used for multiple purposes.

Different styles of rugs fit best in certain types of rooms. Textured rugs add warmth, colour and comfort, where as in the summer you can swap to a fine cotton rug for a cooler feel. Consider the type of material, as this will affect the type rug you purchase based on the care instructions.

HOW TO PLACE A MIRROR IN YOUR HOME

Similarly to selecting a rug, you can build your room around a mirror as an inviting focal point. Mirrors increase the space, add light and beautiful airiness to your home. The foundation for a mirror is just as important as the mirror itself, as this will contribute to the overall impact of your scheme once the mirror is in place.

When fitting a mirror, measure the wall space at the widest point where the mirror will sit, and then measure the height. For oval mirrors, measure from the height of the mirror and then take the width measurements.

To hang a mirror above a sofa, choose a design large enough to complement the width of the sofa. Alternatively, a smaller mirror, three-quarters of the sofa length looks good centred above the seating area.

Group several mirrors together for a powerful look. As with any mirror, check what's reflecting in the glass. Mirrors can enhance your favourite view, but you don't want it to accentuate a section of the room you would prefer to disguise.

Large mirrors look gorgeous placed in front of chandeliers; a big mirror will create additional lighting and an opulent feel. Small mirrors work best as accents, as a small mirror in a big room can feel swamped. Thinner framed mirrors blend in nicely to a room so your focus is drawn into the reflection and additional light is created by the larger piece of glass.

Opulent leaner mirrors create the illusion of more space placed at an angle. Glamourous and large, leaner mirrors can take up more space, but it's completely worth it as they reflect more light to illuminate the area.

Contrast round mirrors with square shapes to sculpt the room and create a well-balanced feel. Pair round mirrors with rectangle console tables and place a vase of beautiful flowers to add colour in the reflection. Placing curved mirrors with rounder furniture tends to make a scheme feel retro. Balance curved furniture and contrast with a square mirror to perfect a cool, contemporary finish.

SOFA PLACEMENT

When placing a sofa there are several considerations to take. It's important to understand whether the sofa will fit in your desired space and so you can guarantee it will fit through the front door upon delivery.

Consider these three stages when measuring a sofa:

- The sofa dimensions
- How much space do you have in the room?
- Is it suitable for delivery? Will the sofa fit through your front/back door, stairs or hallway?

HOW TO MEASURE A SOFA

Measure a sofa for the overall width, depth and height. Using a tape measure, run it along the right (or left) arm of the sofa facing you to get the depth. For the overall width, measure from the left arm along the back of the sofa, up to the edge of the right arm. Make sure you measure from the fullest part of the sofa, which is usually at the top, especially if the arms are curved. To measure the height, account for the sofa legs and measure up from the back to the highest point.

MEASURING A ROOM FOR A SOFA

If you're selecting a one piece or corner sofa, the best way to account for space is to place newspaper on the floor. Position the surrounding furniture around the newspaper and account for how much walk flow is available. Bear in mind the width of the skirting board. Depending on the style, measure from the widest part of the board as this will add depth to your sofa placement.

Are you positioning your sofa in front of a focal point? Whether you're placing a sofa in a living room with a television or it's simply for a reading room, position the newspaper to face the focal point in mind and work your remaining furniture around it. If you're considering placing your sofa underneath the window, measure the height to ensure the sofa doesn't sit higher than the sill.

Once you have the height dimensions, check your side tables sit in line with the height of the sofa arms or smaller. Ideally the side tables are no taller than the highest part of the sofa. Coffee tables should sit in line or are lower than the seats of the sofa - and are no taller - so the flow of the room isn't compromised by clunky furniture.

Depending where your sofa is placed, or in this case, the newspaper, check there is enough room to open and close doors so they don't bang into the sofa corners. Is the sofa covering any plugs, socks, radiators? Sofas placed in front of radiators restrict the heat and your room could be considerably cooler in the winter months.

Another top tip is to check how the sofa will fit if you like to rearrange or update the scheme depending on the season - you may be restricted if the sofa will only fit in one place.

MEASURE FOR DELIVERY

Purchasing a sofa is an investment. Once you've gone through the process of researching and selecting your favourite design, you want to ensure the sofa will fit through the front door!

Are you bringing the sofa in via the front door? Will it fit through the hallway? Are your stairs large enough to maneuver around? Measure all of these spaces prior to arranging delivery and compare these dimensions to those of the sofa. At Laura Caroline, we would recommend doing this as soon as you start researching into buying a sofa so you can rest assured the sofa will fit in your home. Add on additional inches so you have plenty of room to maneuver.