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HOW TO BUY AND STYLE A COUCH ACCORDING TO DESIGNERS

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From the enormous cost of purchasing a sofa, to figuring out the perfect place to put it, this piece of furniture can cause unnecessary stress (queue Ross yelling "Pivot!" in "The one with the cop"). There are quite a few things to consider, such as the layout of your home, your personal aesthetic and budget, and of course, comfort. So, we asked a few designers to lend their hand... er talents, and share a few tips on how to buy and style a couch. Cue [Courtney Thomas](#), [Christie Leu](#), and [Uma Stewart](#). All of these ladies are sharing their expert tips for picking a sofa that is just right for every person and every stage in their home life, here below.

Before You Buy

Courtney Thomas advises, "Look for fit, versatility, and comfort."



Fit: Does it fit? Not just through the door (though that is important), but your lifestyle? Select something to suit the way it will get used. If it's a couch for lounging, a deep chaise sofa may be the way to go. For formal seating? Perhaps a French country settee.

Versatility: Is this sofa in it for the long haul? Will it need to transition through all your lifestyle changes? I suggest a sofa with clean lines. They're more likely to make the "to keep or toss" cut as your design style preference change.

Comfort: If possible, sit on the sofa first. This gets harder as retailers downsize their showrooms and don't carry all their lines on the floor, but if it's an option, take it. You'll be spending some time on this important piece of furniture. Make sure you love being on it, snuggled up in it or lounging across it. Consider depth, too. If you're tall or have tall family members, look at deeper sofas. Shorter? Consider a more shallow one. It'll be easier to get in and out of it."

For someone's first investment, Courtney recommends "A well-built 7' sofa is a good bet. It's one of the most versatile sizes for different spaces and if it's well-built (hard and solid woods, joints integrated into frame components, hand-tied coil springs, high-density foam with down wrap cushions), it can be re-shaped and re-covered as trends change and fabrics wear out."