



04 COMFORT OBSTRUCTIONS IDENTIFIER

Improperly arranged furniture can make a room feel unwelcoming and uncomfortable. When designing a space, it's crucial to avoid these comfort obstructions that hinder comfort. Remember these tips when arranging furniture in a room to ensure maximum comfort.

As you move around in any given room, physical obstructions like badly placed furniture can be inconvenient and uncomfortable, requiring you to navigate around them. However, visual obstructions are equally problematic as they prevent you from seeing the full perspective of the room. A low-hanging light fixture is a prime example of a visual obstruction that can contribute to an unwelcoming atmosphere. Lastly, there can be obstructions that can have psychological effects as well. Interior design can affect behavior. That's why I refer to all of these obstacles as "comfort obstructions." It can also be said as things to avoid because they may cause discomfort.

Even the back of a chair or a sofa can be a hindrance to comfort. While it may not obstruct your view, it can hinder your comfort level as you enter a room. This is because those seated will be facing the other direction, making it feel unwelcoming.



A chair with its back facing you is not welcoming; it's always preferable for the side of the chair to face the entrance of the room rather than the back.

Sometimes, it's not possible to avoid positioning your sofa with its back toward the entrance. But don't worry, there are ways to make it work! For instance, you can try making the back of the sofa low like a bench or add a bookshelf or sofa table to camouflage it and make it more inviting. Instead of a long couch, consider using two chairs as they are less of a visual obstruction and allow for a clearer line of sight.

Symmetry and Balance

It is not possible to talk about comfort without talking about symmetry and balance. These are crucial elements in creating a harmonious and visually appealing designed interior. A balanced room feels calm, stable, and grounded to anyone who enters it. Symmetry creates a sense of order and harmony that is pleasing to the eye. It involves arranging elements such as furniture, lighting, and decor in a way that feels equally distributed and aesthetically pleasing. A well-balanced room can make people feel more relaxed, comfortable, and content. It can also help to create a sense of flow and movement throughout the space, making it more functional and inviting. In short, symmetry and balance are essential components of interior design that can make a significant difference in how a room feels and functions.

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LOVE YOUR LAYOUT BLUEPRINT

How to Identify and Create an Ideal Layout for Each Room in Your Home



Comfort Obstructions

PHYSICAL OBSTRUCTIONS
VISUAL OBSTRUCTIONS



Use obstructions to your

I built a kitchen one step up from logical obstruction. During large interfering with food prep. With enter the kitchen space.

MUST HAVES

- Provide a clear place for shoes, coats and personal items at the entrance to your home
- Create clearly defined areas within a large room to make their intended use clear. This can be done in many ways through the use of rugs, layout, storage, decoration, or seating
- Where possible, create unobstructed views to other rooms or to outside.



Please do the following exercises and measure. Then compare your results with the Comfort Cheat Sheet of Standards.

Let's familiarize ourselves with comfort obstructions with the following exercises:

1. **Walkway Width:** Grab 2 chairs and place them back to back. Now move them apart to a comfortable distance so that it feels comfortable to walk between them until everybody agrees. Now measure a hallway width.
 - a. Now measure the distance. What is it? _____
2. **Coffee Table:** Move a coffee table to a comfortable distance from a chair or couch. Test whether it is comfortable to place a drink there.
 - a. Now measure the distance. What is it? _____
 - b. Look at the Comfort Cheat Sheet of Standards and compare
Note that if the space between the seat and coffee table is also a walkway to enter the seating area, that seat needs to have a side table because the distance is too great for comfortable use of the coffee table.
3. **Speaking Distance:** Grab 2 chairs and have one person sit in each. Now continue to move the chairs further and further apart until it starts to feel uncomfortable to speak.
 - a. Now measure the distance. What is it? _____
4. **Coffee Table Height:** How high is your coffee table in comparison to the seat height of your sofa? Are they the same? _____
5. **Artwork:** Measure from the floor to the middle of a piece of artwork.
 - a. Now measure the distance. What is it? _____
6. **Curtain Rod Length:** Measure the width of your curtain rod. Now measure the width of the inside of your windows from frame to frame. (Note: don't include the window trim)
 - a. Now measure the distance. What is it? _____
7. **Dining Room Clearance:** Place a chair next to the wall and then move the table to a comfortable distance to allow a person to sit down in the chair and then scoot up.
 - a. Now measure the distance. What is it? _____
8. **Dining Room Clearance:** Place the dining room table a comfortable distance away from the wall or nearest piece of furniture to allow a person to comfortably sit in a chair and have another person walk behind the sitting person between the chair and wall.
 - a. Now measure the distance. What is it?
 - b. Look at the Comfort Cheat Sheet of Standards and compare
9. **Pendant Light Width:** Measure the width of a pendant light over a countertop. Now measure the width of the countertop.
 - a. How do they compare?
 - b. Look at the Comfort Cheat Sheet of Standards and compare.
10. See what else you can measure and compare to the Comfort Cheat Sheet of Standards