

!! Chairs for Living Areas

We use living rooms and family rooms for lots of activities, but spend most of our time *sitting*. Choosing comfortable and stylish chairs is a big part of planning such areas. The best solution is a mix of seating: sofas, armchairs, easy chairs and footrests. Combine soft, low upholstered chairs with upright, straight-backed chairs to accommodate all ages and preferences.

As a rule of thumb, plan your living areas to seat six people comfortably. Have some occasional or folding chairs on hand for parties.

Armchairs are just that - chairs with arms. Some have upholstered seats and backs. Keep these out of the kitchen.

Easy chairs, often sold in sets with matching sofas, let you sink into comfort. Most at home in the living room, family room or bedroom, these upholstered chairs are usually low to the ground.

Footrests make your favorite chairs even more comfy. Upholstered chairs sometimes have matching ottomans.

Recliners are the kings' thrones of the family room. Not limited to the notorious Naugahyde varieties, these comfortable, expandable chairs come in many handsome fabric and leather coverings. Allow at least 12 in. behind the chair and 2 ft. in front for it to recline. Wall recliners, which glide forward, require only a 6-in. clearance behind.