

HOW TO finally nail your PICTURE WALL



Have you got a bare wall that you keep looking at and just can't decide what to do to with it? A picture wall is the perfect solution because it makes a statement out of a boring old space in an instant. Whether it's made up of family pictures, your fave art or a mix of the two, you can be as creative as you like. But where to begin? We're here to help you plan and execute your new project and show you that it's not actually such a daunting task to take on after all!

GET THE RIGHT TOOLS

Before you start, make sure you have these picture wall must-haves:

- A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT SIZE FRAMES**
(as lightweight as possible)
- MASKING TAPE AND BLANK PAPER**
(for mocking up the look)
- A SPIRIT LEVEL**
- COMMAND STRIPS OR THIN NAILS**
- MEASURING TAPE**
- PENCIL & RUBBER**

1 FIND INSPO

Before even looking out pictures or frames, the first thing you need to do is hunt for inspiration and figure out what you do and don't like. Pinterest is a great tool for this. Pin as many pictures of walls you like and then narrow it down. Do you love the appearance of uniform frames – e.g. all white or black? Or do you like a mixture of the two and maybe a pop of colour here and there or some gold frames thrown in?

Also think about the size of the wall and the practicalities involved. It's not wise to have a picture wall in a narrow hallway for example – if you brush along the wall frequently, those frames are going to end up crashing down. And think about the height you want to start the pictures at, if you have a little one or pets, make sure you start out of reach or once again – the pictures are likely to end up on the floor.

2 MAKE A PLAN

Once you find your inspiration, it's time to make a plan of how you can capture the look in your own home. To make it a little easier, you could look at following a template which will tell you the size of frames and prints you need and how to slot them together. There are lots available on Pinterest that you can download and print out for reference.

If you'd like more of a free-flow look, a template can still be useful – use it for the centre of the picture wall to give you a focus point and then you can work outward, adding your own ideas and sizes as you go.

After coming up with a plan, it's best to mark out where you're putting the pictures with some paper cut to size and masking tape. Keep the mockup on the wall for at least 24 hours so you can live with it – this will help you decide if you like the layout or spot something that looks uneven.



3 THEME YOUR ART

The best picture walls make use of images that tie in together but aren't too matchy-matchy. Think about using similar colours like the examples shown here. There are tons of online vendors who offer art prints and some, like Desenio, even have gallery suggestions that show groups of prints in real rooms so that you can see what art pieces work well together (*pictured left, below and right*). And if you'd like to mix some family pictures in with art, you could go for black and white prints so that they too have a certain uniformity.



Poster Store, prices from **£6.71**



Stockholm Gallery Collection, Desenio, starting from **£7.59**



Art and Frames, Desenio, prices from **£22.99**



4 ADD PERSONAL TOUCHES

Once you have a rough layout started, don't be afraid to add some of your own unique flair. Lettering and words that are meaningful to you are always a nice touch, as are personalised prints and strings of pegged pictures.



Photo Print, Mambo Personalised at lamfy.com, **£19**



Neon Sign, Mint & May, **£645**



Floral Skull, Summer Thornton, **£45**, Fairylights, **£8** all at Next

5 PLAY WITH LIGHT

Just like adding personal touches, lighting can really set your picture wall apart. If you have one image that's the statement piece and is larger than the rest, try hanging fairy lights over the top of it to make it pop. Or you could go for a neon sign for the centrepiece of your picture wall, like this ironic one from Mint & May (*top left*).



Every Picture Tells A Story, HOAGARD at Etsy, **£54.34**



Rory Dobner at John Lewis, prices from **£38**

6 TRY PLATES TO CHANGE THINGS UP

If prints or family pictures just aren't your thing, a cool take on the picture wall is to use plates as 3D art, like the example shown left.

7 IF ALL ELSE FAILS, CHEAT!

If you don't have the time or inclination to install a picture wall but like how it looks, you could think about using wallpaper to make a statement wall.



Printed Wallpaper, Mineheart.com, **£148**

