

The Shelf Styling Planner

Pick a look, map every shelf and style it in the right order

1. Map Your Shelves

Walk past each shelf once and write down what it needs most, then style only that.

Shelf	What it needs	Notes
Living room bookshelf		Height, color, one personal piece
Entry or console shelf		A small vase and a frame
Bedroom or office shelf		Baskets to hide cables
Open kitchen shelf		Canisters, a board and a bowl
Shelf depth and height		Measure before you buy
Total budget		Sets your shopping list

2. Choose One Color Story

Repeat one palette in three places and the shelf looks planned. Circle your choice.

Look	Colors	Pairs well with
Warm neutral	Cream, beige and light wood	Books, vases, bead garland
Modern	Black, white and concrete	Frames, bookends, black baskets
Brass and glow	Gold, brass and warm white	Candlesticks, small mirrors
Kitchen farmhouse	Wood, white and clear glass	Canisters, board, crock, bowl

3. Style Order

Layer	What to place	Check
Base	Books stacked flat, bookends at the ends	
Height	Tall vase or candlesticks at the back	
Soften	Trailing faux pothos or bead garland	
Personal	Frames leaned at different angles	
Hide	Basket on the lowest shelf	

Kitchen	Canisters, board, crock and bowl	
---------	----------------------------------	--

4. Shopping and Budget

Item	Budget	Notes	Done?
Books or bookends			
Vases and greenery			
Frames and baskets			
Kitchen pieces			
Extras			
Total			

- Spend first on the piece you will see from the doorway.
- Keep a little room in the budget for a small surprise piece.

5. Styling Steps

- Clear the whole shelf and wipe it down.
- Place the biggest pieces first.
- Add height with a vase or candlesticks.
- Fill gaps with small objects in odd numbers.
- Leave some empty space on each shelf.
- Step back and look from across the room.

6. Weekly Reset

- Dust the shelves once a week.
- Check that books and bookends have not shifted.
- Swap one small piece for a fresh look.
- Keep cords and chargers inside a basket.
- Take a photo of the shelf when it looks right.
- Rotate one piece every season.