

## Welcome Home: 4 Steps to a Perfect Porch

From creating curb appeal to creating an inviting entry for incoming guests, adding a little style to the front porch will warm up your welcomes in no time.

Written by Sarah Schaale

The threshold of your home sees a lot of action during the fall season. It's a time for visitors (from trick-or-treaters to visiting in-laws), and for well-lit porches as earlier nightfall moves in. And whether you're working with an itty-bitty apartment entry or a wrap-around portico, styling the space with a few key pieces will make your home feel welcoming and lived in—and let your guests know what fine taste you have before they even get through the door.

Here, our 4 steps to creating the perfect porch for fall and beyond:

### 1. Start with the right lights.

A well-lit porch not only offers a warm welcome to incoming guests, but provides safety and security for the all-important entrance to your home. Beyond choosing a fixture that is the right style and brightness you want, follow these quick tips for getting the front porch light just right:

- If possible, flank both sides of the front door with matching outdoor wall sconces. If there isn't room for two, use a single sconce on the side of the door that the keyhole is on.
- To get the proportions right, look for wall lights that run about  $\frac{1}{4}$  the length of the door.
- Match the style of light to the exterior of your home. If you have a Tudor-style home, the most modern and minimal light fixture might not look quite at home. Let the features of your home's architecture guide you to a style you like.

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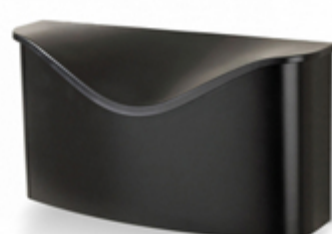
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