

# The New York Times

RIGHT AT HOME

## Tired of Winter? Here's How to Make Your Home a Haven

As the season stretches on, it's time to think hygge thoughts and turn your home into a warm and cozy sanctuary.



Yoko Kanno

There comes a moment every winter when reality sinks in that the cold, dark days and long nights are nowhere near over. You can hardly remember a time when your apartment did not feel tropical, the unfortunate result of an overly ambitious radiator. And your relationship with that [Amazon coat](#), which seemed so on-trend last winter, has definitely soured. That moment, reader, is upon us.

But rather than grind through the dreariness, perhaps it's time to celebrate it — or, at the very least, surrender to it, and turn your space into a cozy cabin. Winter enthusiasts insist that with the right mix of candles, mirrors, alpaca blankets and hot tea, hunkering down can feel downright blissful. You're not a recluse, you're embracing [hygge](#), the Danish cultural outlook that likens life to a favorite woolen sweater, minus the itchy collar.

## Consider the textures

Just as you layer clothes to go outside on a cold day, a home should be layered, too, so it feels like a space that might envelope you. The types of fabrics and materials you choose matter. Natural fibers and fabrics like mohair, leather, wool and wood are inviting. Synthetics, not so much.

“You want to create a pleasurable tactile experience for people,” said Catherine Connolly, the chief executive of [Merida](#), a rug company in Boston. Will the rug feel soft beneath your feet? Soft and welcoming enough that you might want to sit on the floor and read or watch a show? That’s the goal.