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### Save money on rugs.

If the large area rug you love is out of your budget, seek out a lower-priced sisal or jute rug and layer a decorative rug on top. "This is a cost-effective way to get your aesthetic favorite and something large to fit the space," says Lindsay Hair, an interior designer and founder of [Linden Blue eDesign](#) in New York City.

Photo: Thinkstock / The Nest

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### Swap out lighting.

Your house probably has builder-selected chandeliers and flush mounts. If these don't match your design aesthetic, visit The Home Depot (or shop online) to find lighting that suits you. "Browse sites such as Circa Lighting and Shades of Light to find interesting chandeliers, sconces and ceiling mounts at reasonable price points that also offer character and visual interest," Hair suggests.

Photo: David A. Land / The Nest

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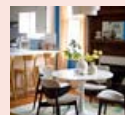
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Congrats! You're movin' on up -- to a house that's way larger than your apartment. And whether you two are buying this new house or renting it, you likely feel a mix of emotions: excitement at the chance to finally decorate and trepidation about how much everything will cost. Read on for seven ways to make this an affordable -- and fun -- process.

Photo: Antonis Achilleos / The Nest



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