

# très CHIC

Channel your inner Marie Antoinette with this French-inspired look. Add ornate furniture and sparkly accessories to a simple white background for a scheme fit for a palace - or you know, your living room



## LIVING notes

**Mirror, £90, Tesco.com**

**B&Q Melon Milkyway Sparkle Cushion, £8.98, DIY.com**

**Crystal droplets five-arm candelabra £23.95, MelodyMaison.co.uk**

**Caley table lamp, £35, Bhs.co.uk**

**Louis French-inspired sofa, £699, CrownFrenchFurniture.co.uk**

**Heritage damask wallpaper, £22, JohnLewis.com**

**Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen Baroque 'n' Roll ornamental balls, £32 for three, lsme.com**

**Large cream painted lantern, £70, Next.co.uk**

**Corner floral frame, £7.50, Sainburys.co.uk**

**Plain mocha chenille throw, £29.50, MarksandSpencer.com**

### MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

**PICK** the right paint. There's not much room for error when decorating with white, so spend some time choosing the right shade or tint of white. For the brightest, freshest look, try a

paint with light-reflecting particles such as Dulux's new Ultra White. For a softer feel, go for a slightly off-white shade such as Crown's Mascarpone or Brandy Snap.

**LOOK FOR** ornate details such as scrolled arms on chairs, carved wooden table legs and embossed mirrors and frames. Got a piece of old wooden furniture? Give it a shabby chic makeover by sanding it down and painting it with

a watered-down white emulsion. **ADD SOME OOH LA LA.** This style takes inspiration from the era of King Louis XVI and many stores name products after characters and places from that time. Keep an eye out for 'Louis', 'Antoinette', and 'Versailles'.

**ADD COLOUR.** Yes, you read that correctly. Look closely and you'll see not everything in this room is pure white. Subtle shades of pink, mauve, brown and grey add depth and texture and stop it looking stark.

**COSY UP** with soft fabrics. Just

because it's white doesn't mean it has to be cold. Cover sofas and armchairs with cushions and velvety throws for a look that's also liveable.

**LET THERE BE LIGHT.** Even white can feel dark and stuffy if it's not properly lit. Window blinds

allow maximum natural light in during the day while plenty of lamps allow you to create a more mellow mood in the evening.

**ACCESSORISE.** With a plain white scheme, you can afford to go all-out on ornate details and fill up your surfaces with picture

frames and candles and trinket boxes without looking cluttered.

**BREAK UP** the white. If a plain scheme feels a bit boring, try adding texture and pattern with fabric and wallpaper. Embossed wallpaper is a subtle way to add interest to a section of the room.