

For some people, furniture shopping can be an overwhelming and time consuming experience. In today's furniture market, most stores carry a few different styles, while others cater to a specific style. A good way to "start" shopping is with a store introduction via the Internet. This allows you to view the product styles offered, along with pricing on most websites, before making a trip to the store. One bit of advice though - don't let the website be your only judge when it comes to shopping - websites usually don't contain all of the products a store carries. Also, a few stores offer 'Catalog or Internet Only' items that cannot be found in the store.

When the time comes to visit stores, don't be afraid to stop in and browse through stores that carry a slightly higher-priced product - you never know when you'll find a great clearance piece at a great price that fits your style & budget!

Styles and colors for furniture, fabrics, and accessories can change a few times during the course of a year depending on the store, so keep that in mind when shopping. Should you find the perfect item and then decide to purchase it at a later date, it might not be available.

Here are a few other tips to assist you:

- ◆ Visit store websites prior to purchasing to check for discount coupons or sales announcements.
- ◆ Furniture stores carry accessories that coordinate with the styles offered, so look before you leave.
- ◆ Craft stores also offer foliage, floral selections, candles, containers, wall décor, and baskets.
- ◆ When purchasing an upholstered item, it's always wise to see a fabric sample in your home prior to ordering if possible. Lighting in showrooms is very different than what you have in your home, and catalog photos are not always color accurate.
- ◆ Make sure you are aware of lead times and delivery charges; they can vary from store to store.

