

Free Art Size Cheat Sheet

Choose Wall Art That Looks Balanced, Not Lost

A simple guide to help you choose artwork that feels right for your wall, your furniture and your room.

Choosing art should feel joyful, but size is where many people get stuck. A piece you love can look too small once it is on the wall, or too large if it crowds the furniture beneath it.

This quick cheat sheet gives you a few simple rules of thumb to help you choose with more confidence.

The Golden Rule

Your artwork should relate to the furniture below it. Art which is hung above a sofa, bed, fireplace, sideboard or console table, usually looks best when it feels visually connected to that piece of furniture.

As a simple starting point:

Aim for artwork that is around two-thirds the width of the furniture below it.

This does not need to be exact. It is a guide, not the law.

For example:

| Furniture width | Good artwork width to consider |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 90 cm console table | around 60 cm |
| 120 cm sideboard | around 80 cm |
| 180 cm sofa | around 120 cm |
| 150 cm bed | around 100 cm |

This can be one large piece, or a group of smaller pieces that together fill roughly the same width. *Don't forget to account for the space between artworks when sizing groups.*

Quick size checks

Before you buy, ask these five questions:

1. Will it look connected to the furniture?

If the artwork is much narrower than the sofa, bed or console beneath it, it may look a little stranded.

2. Is there enough breathing space?

Art should not feel squeezed against the ceiling, furniture, lamps or door frames. Leave space around it so the piece can settle.

3. Is the room asking for one statement piece or a group?

A large wall often needs either a bigger artwork or a thoughtfully arranged group. One small print on a wide blank wall can look lonely.

4. Will the colours work with the room?

The art does not need to match everything. It simply needs to feel at home. Pick up one or two tones from the room or choose a piece that brings calm contrast.

5. Can you test the size first?

Use paper, masking tape or cardboard to mark the artwork size on the wall before buying.

Common wall art sizing mistakes

Mistake 1: Buying too small

This is the most common one. A piece may look generous online, then feel tiny above a sofa or bed.

Fix: Check the measurements against your furniture before ordering.

Mistake 2: Forgetting the frame

A mount and frame can make the final piece much larger than the print itself.

Fix: Always think in terms of the finished size, not just the artwork size.

Mistake 3: Hanging too high

Art often looks better when it feels connected to the furniture below, rather than floating near the ceiling.

Fix: Keep the artwork comfortably above the furniture, but not so high that it feels detached.

Mistake 4: Ignoring the shape of the wall

A tall narrow wall may suit a portrait piece. A long wall may suit a landscape piece or a pair of artworks. A square space can look beautiful with a square artwork.

Fix: Let the wall shape guide your choice.

Fast guide by area

Above a sofa

Choose art or a group of artworks that feels generous enough for the sofa. Around two-thirds of the sofa width is a useful starting point.

Above a bed

The artwork should feel calm and balanced. One larger piece, a pair, or a soft horizontal arrangement can work beautifully.

Above a console or sideboard

This is a lovely place for a statement piece. Let the artwork relate to the furniture width and leave room for lamps, vases or books.

Hallways

Hallways often suit smaller pieces, pairs, narrow vertical work or gallery-style arrangements. Make sure the art can be enjoyed as people pass through.

Fireplaces

Art above a fireplace often becomes a focal point. Choose something strong enough to hold attention without overcrowding the mantel.

Try this before you buy

Measure your furniture or wall space, then write down:

Furniture or wall width:

.....

Approximate artwork width to consider:

.....

Artwork size I am considering:

.....

Finished size if framed:

.....

Does it feel too small, too large, or just right?

.....

Remember

There is no single perfect size for every room. Scale, colour, shape, furniture, ceiling height and personal taste all play a part.

The best artwork is not just the right size.

It is the piece you want to keep looking at.

Want the full illustrated room-by-room guide?

This cheat sheet gives you the quick starting points.

For a more detailed guide, including room-by-room sizing advice, visual examples, layout ideas and practical worksheets, see:

What Size Art Should I Buy?

A practical guide to choosing artwork that feels beautifully balanced in your home.



What Size Art Should I Buy is a practical, beautifully illustrated e-book designed to help you choose wall art with more confidence before you buy, frame or hang it.

Created for art lovers, home decorators and thoughtful print buyers, this guide takes the guesswork out of scale, shape and placement. It uses clear visual examples and simple styling guidance to show what works, what feels awkward, and why.

Exceptional value at just £9, this guide can help you save money by avoiding costly mistakes while creating the atmosphere you've been looking for.

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