



A home with a dog can be stylish as well as clean and practical

Smart accessories for house-proud dog owners

“A house without a dog is not a home,” says the interior stylist Marianne Cotterill, firmly. She should know. Cotterill, with the photographer James Merrell, has produced a delightful new book called *Dogs at Home* (Ebury, £16.99). So how can you keep a home stylish — and hygienic — with four-legged companions?

When you arrive home after a rainy walk your dog will immediately shake itself dry, spraying its surroundings with muddy droplets. You need washable paintwork, but don't want super-shiny hospital-style hallway walls, so try one of the easy-clean stain and scrub-resistant matt emulsions from Crown or Dulux, from £22 for

2.5 litres.

Add indoor-outdoor textiles to your interior decor. Robust, machine-washable rugs, cushions and blankets, such as the ones Weaver Green's collection, are often made from recycled PET bottles. The Weaver Green range also includes dog beds, £185, and — big bonus — the woven recycled plastic is supremely uninteresting to ticks, mites and fleas. Rugs from £67, weavergreen.com.

Invest in pet bedding that mimics human taste — your



taste — rather than buying beds and blankets decorated with paw prints and bones. If your living room sofa is moss green, you might like a Harris tweed doughnut bed for your dog, from £130, muttsandhounds.co.uk. Creature Clothes makes pretty retro beds from vintage Welsh blankets, from £118, creatureclothes.com. For lovers of contemporary colours, there are grey or mauve oblong dog mattresses at Mungo and Maud, from £199, mungoandmaud.com. Hackles rising at the price of the designer pet brands? [Made.com](http://made.com) offers chic felt pet beds from £39.

Unless you plan to keep dogs off the couch, discover sofa toppers asap — these are machine-washable, soft and

comfy extra layers, like garden seat cushions. Lounging Hound makes toppers to fit any sofa, in fabrics such as polyester velvet treated with a stain-resistant silicone finish, from £150, thelounginghound.com. Stylish alternatives include the Douglas dog duvet from Lish, a cosy quilt in vintage Liberty print, £95, lishlondon.com.

Some of the smartest dog blankets are indistinguishable from throws you might buy in the luxury interiors stores, except — like the large faux-fur Wolf Grey dog blanket, £135, charleychau.com — they cost half the price.

Pet hair: there is no escape. Arm yourself with Lakeland's Rubber Buddy brush, £5.99, with rubber bristles for brushing rugs and upholstery, and invest in a

specialist pet vacuum cleaner such as the Shark DuoClean, £179.99, or the Miele Compact C2 Cat & Dog Powerline vacuum, £250, which can help to neutralise unwanted odours.

In the war on smells, arm yourself with Lakeland's Odour Out deodorising fabric spray, £5.99, which has a formula that includes enzymes, rather than ammonia. Against stains, deploy a bleach and peroxide-free cleaner such as Mrs Gleam's, £6.99, which is safe to use on most upholstery fabrics and woollen carpets. When the worst happens, try Mungo & Maud's Mishap Spray, £15.95, a pleasantly scented hypoallergenic, all-natural product made with lavender and eucalyptus.

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