

Small Space Clearance Guide

Stretch your apartment footprint with precise designer measurements

Relying on guesswork makes small rooms feel cramped. Use these exact clearances to instantly make your compact living area feel significantly larger.

● Essential Clearances

3 in

Sofa to wall shadow gap

6 in

Baseboard gap & exposed sofa legs

Flush

Drapes mounted at ceiling line

60 in

Floor to bottom of plug-in sconce

14-18 in

Sofa to open-base coffee table

42 in

Floor to center of mounted TV

36 in

Clear entryway turning radius



Balance Your Visual Weight

Anchor airy, leggy furniture with at least one solid, grounded piece like a heavy accent chair or a dense wood media cabinet to maintain visual stability.

● Clearances For Your Space

Find your row: **Your layout plans**

Your layout plans	Your pick	Why
Primary paths to kitchen	Min 30 inches	Prevents frustrating bottlenecks
Placing secondary seating	4 to 10 inches	Keeps conversation zones tight
Sizing your area rug	Extend 8 in per side	Properly defines main living zone
Adding display storage	10-inch deep shelves	Preserves essential traffic paths

● Visual Expansion Tricks

- ☐ Pull main seating forward to create depth and breathing room.
- ☐ Leave a bare floor perimeter border to expand visible footprint.
- ☐ Elevate upholstered items on tapered legs so light passes underneath.
- ☐ Install window hardware higher up to fake high architectural ceilings.
- ☐ Swap bulky table lamps for mounted fixtures to reclaim space.

● Check Before You Arrange

- Find your largest window to position a tall floor mirror opposite.
- Check empty corners to place a tall, slender indoor tree.
- Ensure you have a solid console to offset an elevated sofa.
- Check wall space for a paintable cable channel to conceal cords.

● Room Measurements & Notes

Enjoy your beautifully balanced and perfectly proportioned new living room!