

## Spring Ideas To Sleep On

*In 18th-century Williamsburg, the spring season brought more than just blooming flowers and warmer weather. For wealthy colonists who could afford the luxury of thick rugs and warm, custom-made bedcurtains for cold winter nights, spring was the time to take down and pack away those heavy textiles. While today's temperature-controlled home doesn't require the same level of domestic upheaval, it's fun to make a ritual of incorporating seasonal changes to your bedroom. I'm always surprised how little changes can lift me out of my winter blahs—and next thing I know, spring is right around the corner!*



### Put some pop in the bedtop...



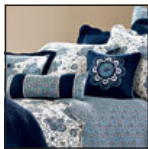
One of the easiest (and most inexpensive) ways to redecorate the bedroom is adding a new color. Try using a colorful matelassé coverlet to break up a print or to pull out a more subtle color to give an old comforter new life. If you already use a solid bedspread, try layering another contrasting color with it to add depth, loft, and visual interest. A bed of layered colors can bring a new feel to the whole room and creates a beautiful color story.

### Feeling dull? Add toile...



Something about the nature-inspired and pastoral scenes in toile always makes me think of springtime. Toile is also a breeze to decorate with because you can use as much or as little as you like and it always looks good. A little weary of pattern? Toile is a good choice to add a little life to your room without the risk of being too busy. Small touches create a sense of serenity and proportion. And if you develop a real passion for toile, you can carry the look into an adjoining bathroom using a variety of toile accessories, from shower curtain to soap dish.

### Dress to impress...



A well-dressed bed never ceases to delight a guest. Above all, a bed should look inviting and comfortable—and with the many pillow options available today, that lush look is within reach. If your headboard can accommodate a big 27" square Euro pillow, try dressing it in a solid sham and place your standard pillows in front with a printed sham. This way, the Euro gives your room a nice block of solid color, allowing the eye a chance to focus and rest. Throw pillows are wonderful for adding seasonal interest, whimsy, and texture.

### They took them up, we can put them down...



For the Williamsburg colonist, spring tradition included taking up heavy rugs and putting down floorcloths or rush mats—a lighter and cooler way to protect floors during the warmer seasons. Today, air conditioning affords us the luxury of enjoying our rugs for decorative purposes. I like to use throw rugs in the bedroom to add a splash of color, texture, or seasonal interest. Throw rugs can either dress up or dress down a bedroom. Choose a punchy colored braided rug for a warm, casual look or a classically detailed oriental for a more formal twist. For those with larger master bedrooms rugs serve well to help divide and

define your space.

### The perfect bed skirt is just a snip away...



People always ask and then cringe at the answer. The easiest way to a bed skirt that hangs perfectly is to cut out the middle (the white muslin part) and attach the bed skirt to the bed itself. You can Velcro or staple the bed skirt to the side rails. I like that this technique allows you to still enjoy all the beautiful wood of your bed frame while still utilizing the design of your bedding to visually ground the bed. And when you put down your box spring and mattress, no one will ever know what lies beneath. Best of all, when you make your bed, the skirt won't shift!