

— *Decorating Direction* —

Practical uses for your home's formal living room

Originally, formal living rooms were spaces in which special guests were entertained. However, as modern-day life has become more casual, so have our living spaces.

The options for using this space depend on this room's location in your home.

If the living room is directly in front of the front door, the formal living room could be converted into a library or a reading den.

You also might consider turning it into a music lounge, where everyone can go to listen to, and play, music.

Another popular idea is to use the larger living room space, which often has a majestic fireplace and windows, as the formal dining room, with a larger and more elegant table, side-

board and other furnishings.

The smaller formal dining space then can be utilized as a cozy and intimate reading den or sitting room. This smaller dining space also can be converted into a functional home office.

Your number of options expands if the formal living room is less visible. It can be transformed into a media or theater room, which has become incredibly popular, a billiard room and bar, a children's play room or even an exercise or craft room.

For these alternatives, you likely would want to add doors to preserve the room's privacy or hide its clutter. Adding doors is an easy alteration that also would increase the options — and the room's resale potential.

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