





All companies have cut inventories to include only "best sellers." This means that the really fabulous fabric or side table that you and your designer love for the room is probably not considered a "best seller" as it is uniquely you, not the masses. Even if you go to your favorite mom and pop furniture store or one of the big catalog/shopping center stores, you are up against strict timelines for holiday delivery. Furniture stores have their upholstery sales in August to encourage you to buy ahead for the holidays.

#### - Custom Upholstery, Draperies, Bedding -DESIGN TIMELINE

WEEK1: Decide that you need to make a change and know your budget. Look through magazines for inspiration and decide the look you want to try and put together for your home.

WEEKS 2-5: Hire a designer or start looking for what you want. Whether it is furniture, fabric, lighting or linens, you will usually take at least one month to sort through your options. (Longer if you want to complete an entire makeover or make revisions based on price and availability of product.) Time often depends on how quickly you can make a decision and how quickly vendors will confirm timelines.

WEEK 6: Order a CFA (cutting for approval) for fabric. This allows you to confirm that the fabric sample you saw is the fabric you will get. Just last month I had a client who received a green fabric when her CFA arrived, though the fabric she had selected had been brown. So we were really glad we checked—otherwise we would have been greatly surprised and unhappy when a green sofa was delivered instead of brown!

WEEK7: Send fabric order to the manufacturer. I have had fabrics recently that have taken one week to arrive, and I have had fabrics that have taken 16 weeks. Let's go with best case scenario—one week.

WEEK8: Manufacturer receives fabric and places it in the production schedule.

WEEKS 9-14: Manufacturing time. Again let's go with best case scenario-six weeks.

WEEK 15: Manufacturer ships the item to the vendor.

WEEK 16: Vendor delivers to the client. Just like that, four months went speeding by!

Time flies! The great plans that you have to transform your home for the holidays need to be put into action during the dog days of summer. Happy Thanksgiving and a very merry Christmas!

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