Quirky, Cool Must-Haves to Deck Out Your Off-Campus Housing:

Lots of energy and excitement accompany moving out of dorms and into off-campus housing. A brand new place, loads more freedom, and no limits on how you set up your space are reason enough to get amped. Whether you have roommates or not, you have a spot to yourself like never before. It’s crucial to deck it out to suit your studies *and* your style.

While hanging twinkle lights are a college classic, there’s definitely room to do more. This Smarta guide to getting original with your decor goes beyond the basics. It’s off-campus living with a twist— and a student budget in mind, of course.

Lighting:

Getting the lights just right is key to comfort and peace. It’s also nice to be able to change the ambiance by adjusting colors and hues. Instead of string lights, opt for a funky lava lamp to set the mood. They’re available for cheap from tons of online retailers and are sure to entertain with their neons and bloops.

Candles, too, never go out of style. The crazy shapes, colors, and scents are endless and easy to find on sites like Etsy, Amazon, and eBay. Supplementing your lighting with a couple of cool ones will add a soothing depth and glow to your space.

Make it more interesting by shaking up the size and shape of your lamps. Check your local second-hand stores for tall ones to shine light from above. Mix in some spunk with patterned lampshades and colorful bases.Above all, don’tjust stick with the overhead fluorescence.

Plants:

Some of the funkiest looking plants are also the easiest to take care of. Whether you’re an amateur or enthusiast, there’s a couple of leafy green pals you just can’t go wrong with.

For the minimalist, it’s cute, hardy succulents like Jade and the Golden Ball Cactus that’ll do the trick. Simply plop them by your sunniest window and check in from time to time. If sunlight is limited, there’s plenty of plants that flourish without it. Devil’s Ivy and English Ivy are two low-light beauties that’ll bring instant ease. With vines that lightly cascade, they’re a great way to add dimension.

Truly, truly overlooked are fake plants. While it’s no easy feat to keep a tree alive inside, your fake tree will never die. In the right corner of your living room or bedside, no one will spot the difference.

Plants are the simplest way to bring your off-campus housing to life. Fake or not, they’re easy to find, cheap to buy, and fresh to keep.

3. Objects of Various Sizes

From big and small frames packed with art to that plush, comfy chair everyone wants to sit in, it’s certainly all in the details. We’re talking more than just color to what puts a unique spin on your off-campus space.

Sweep your local vintage and second-hand stores for sculptures, knickknacks, and weird art. Don’t write off Facebook and Craigslist as resources for cool stuff either. You might find the colorful couch that brings it all together, or the perfect record player for a group listening sesh. Plus, not only can you locate just about anything, but you can also barter for it.

Take risks, play around with shapes, and check unexpected places. Getting out there and bringing home a good haul has an impact whether you live alone or with roommates. It’s positive vibes, a soothing place to chill in, and way more comfort.

Too often, we’re satisfied with the basics. What makes living off-campus so much more vivacious is that you can make it your own. Once you’ve got your couch and your coffee table, move forward with your decor. Using these pointers, you’ll end up with off-campus housing that wows more than ever before.