

MARTHA STEWART Living

Chic & Easy
Ideas for
Easter



**ALL
SET FOR
SPRING**
200+ Ways to
Live Happier,
Healthier,
Cleaner
& Greener

Choose a Style

Trendy silhouettes come and go, but these six classic types—some dating back to the 18th century—are timeless investment pieces.



MIDCENTURY

Signature look: *Mad Men*-esque: low profile, high back, and squared arms.

Pros: Clean lines, good back support.

Cons: Too low for some people's comfort. **Watch out for:** Overstuffed cushions. "The structured design can make for a firmer sit," says furniture design consultant Marissa Brown.

Jonathan Adler Topanga four-seater sofa, in Venice Camel Velvet, \$5,250, jonathanadler.com.



CAMELBACK

Signature look: Upright and elegant, thanks to its curves and high arms.

Also known as a Chippendale. **Pros:**

The tight back makes you sit up straight. **Cons:** The shallow seat isn't comfy for tall people—or for snuggling.

Watch out for: Wonky proportions. If the seat is nice and deep, the back can be too high.

Ethan Allen Audrey sofa, 96", in Matic Gray, \$3,499, ethanallen.com.



ENGLISH ROLL ARM

Signature look: Also called a Bridgewater, it's low and louche. **Pros:** Soft arms and cushions; tilted at an inviting angle. **Cons:** Leaving its embrace can be (physically) challenging.

Watch out for: Cheap assembly. "Low-end makers slap the arms on the outside," rather than building them into the frame, says Brown.

RH Restoration Hardware English Roll Arm sofa, 108", in Fog Belgian Linen, \$3,896, restorationhardware.com.



TUXEDO

Signature look: Boxy but tailored.

The back and arms are always the same height, the cushions firm. **Pros:**

Stylish, sometimes slightly feminine lines; good for small spaces. **Cons:**

The arms tend to be thin and hard. **Watch out for:** Awkward arm heights.

"If they're too high, it's hard to find side tables that work," says interior designer Steven Gambrel.

Bunny Williams Home Southern Belle sofa, in Solid Linen/Natural, \$6,150, bunnywilliamshome.com.



CHESTERFIELD

Signature look: At home in a library,

with its leather-bound kin. Often tufted, with rolled arms the same

height as the back, and a tight back and seats. **Pros:** Formal yet remarkably cozy. **Cons:** BYO pillow

for napping. **Watch out for:** Appropriate upholstery. "These look best in stiff materials like leather, heavy linen, or velvet," Gambrel says.

George Smith Channeled sofa, \$14,680, georgesmith.com.



LAWSON

Signature look: Loose cushions; the back ones form a T shape over rolled sock arms. **Pros:** Versatile and great for stretching out, with low arms that double as headrests.

Cons: Less statement-making than the others. **Watch out for:** Fussy details. "I'd never skirt a Lawson," Gambrel says. "That looks too traditional."

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Smith sofa, 82", in Avignon Pewter, \$2,840, mgbwhome.com.

Measure your space

Most sofas come in a few standard lengths. An eight-foot one is optimal for catnapping and conversation, says Gambrel; any shorter than six feet, and you might be better off with two club chairs and an ottoman. Use painters' tape to map out the right spot, and factor in door frames, walkways, and other clearances to be sure you can get it in there. If you have narrow doors or stairs, shop for models with removable legs.

"Architecture and décor don't need to match. In a modern, slick setting, I'd push in the opposite direction and choose, say, something tufted to warm up the space."

—Steven Gambrel