

[*white*] CAN BE SURPRISINGLY FAMILY-FRIENDLY.

HOW THE WEST WAS REINVENTED

Jeanne and Paul Moseley love Montana—
but not its stereotypically heavy, dark decor.
So they lightened things up with a fresh white
approach and a healthy sense of humor.





Collingwood
by Benjamin Moore
(used throughout)





LEFT Slipcovered Shabby Chic sofas, heaped with hand-sewn pillows, flank the living room fireplace. The leather armchair is by Jean de Merry; the Moseleys had the small antler side table custom made.

BELOW Jeanne found this landscape painting, as well as the photo-transfer lampshade, at local antiques shops.

OPPOSITE PAGE A marble counter, salvaged from a bakery, tops a desk in the study. The hickory chair once stood in Yellowstone National Park's Old Faithful Inn.

It's no stretch to call the outdoorsy Moseley family poster children for healthy Montana living. Dad Paul runs a fly fishing resort, the Ruby Springs Lodge, in Twin Bridges. Jeanne, a stay-at-home mom, loves to spend wintry afternoons exploring the rugged terrain on snowshoes. The couple's two kids—son Austin, 9, and daughter Bennett, 6—have been skiing practically since they could walk. But there is one state tradition in which this bunch does not take part.

"Cabins in Montana tend to have dark decor," explains Jeanne. "There's a heaviness to the style, and that's exactly what I didn't want." So when she and Paul bought a vacation place on the slopes of Big Mountain, near the town of Whitefish, three years ago (the family also owns a home in Missoula), they took a decidedly different route to decorating—with an all-white approach.

Well, almost all-white. Working with interior designer Stephanie Sandston, Jeanne ultimately decided on a grayish-white hue, Benjamin Moore's Collingwood, for every wall. The next step? White slipcovers for the sofas and chairs, as well as white bedding—all of which can go right in the laundry. "I've got kids and two dogs, so there are occasional spills," Jeanne says. "I think people can be afraid of white, but



"People can be afraid of white, but between washable and stain-resistant fabrics, it's easy to take care of," says Jeanne Moseley. "I've got two kids and two dogs!"





bright idea!

Whitewashed frames unite, and elevate, paint-by-numbers art.

ABOVE In the kids' room, wool trading blankets adorn beds from Bear Mountain Mercantile. Jeanne bought the tramp-art table at a Seattle antiques market; the burl-wood lamp is also vintage.

OPPOSITE PAGE Donghia stacking chairs add contemporary contrast to a checked tablecloth in the dining room.

"I really like the idea of layering," says Jeanne, "with woven blankets, heavy canvas slipcovers, a lamb's-wool rug."

between washable and stain-resistant fabrics, it's easy to take care of." She's also a fan of the pale hue's versatility: "Switching out accessories is all it takes to change the feel of our home." Just look at the pictures here for proof—a few bold blue blankets and pillows, plus one particularly playful checked tablecloth, give the entire place a strong sense of color and pattern.

In the end, Jeanne and Paul didn't completely buck the whole wild, wild West thing. They did, however, bring a light, humorous touch to the usual sporty mountain motifs. In their guest room, ice skates, skis, and a sled—transformed with white spray paint—serve as cheap and cheeky wall art. The kids' bedroom contains a slew of paint-by-numbers scenes, depicting creek fishing, wintry peaks, and majestic elk. Other Rocky Mountain icons, like a rugged leather club chair, twiggy bed frames, and antler-base side tables, reference the Moseleys' home state and add interest through texture. "I'm really into the idea of layering: woven blankets, heavy canvas and thin-wale corduroy slipcovers, plus a lamb's-wool rug in the study that the kids can sprawl out on," says Jeanne.

At the end of a long day on the slopes, Jeanne says, "we invite the neighbors over. The adults drink wine and the kids drink cocoa, and we watch the snow fall. White is so peaceful and luxurious. It can also feel very warm. More than anything else, I'm proud of the way our home wraps its arms around you." ♦