•Keep a room's colors or tonality the same or in a similar family. "Texture's my substitute for color," says Chicago designer Michael Del Piero. "Everything in my shop including the wall is textured, a fringe burlap with clay plaster."

•Choose the right texture for the desired effect. "Rough textures make a space more intimate; smooth textures bring a sleeker tone; bold saturated colors are best with smoother textures; and soft textures are nurturing," says New York designer Laura Angelini.

•Avoid mixing too much texture with too much pattern; they'll compete and distract the eye.

•Use texture as one feature rather than the dominating theme of a space, says Los Angeles designer Christopher Grubb.

•Introduce texture through layering different ones — some tactile, some with dimension, and some reflective, says Islas. **New York designer Lorri Dyner makes a sea grass rug her go-to favorite because it's affordable and can be topped with another texture such as a shag rug.**

•**Don't forget Mother Nature, a pro. Dyner often uses a piece of driftwood on a table or mantle or a grouping of seashells in a glass bowl.** Big windows with views toward the outdoors are another way to bring texture indoors visually, says Morgante. And outdoors, Sacramento, Calif., landscape designer Michael Glassman thinks about texture whether planning a softscape of plants, flowers, bushes and trees or a hardscape of walkways and terraces. In one of his designs, a stone wall crafted from natural ledge stone rock adds great textural interest while in another he mixed different leaf textures of rough, sticky and shiny leaves.

•Edit your choices. You'll know you've gone too far when you start to feel uncomfortable, LeBlanc adds. "You don't want to look like you bought the entire showroom," she says.

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