

Amish Originals Furniture Co.

Furniture Buyer's Toolkit



Furniture for Life.

Just Ask.

Amish Originals Furniture Co., will work with you to make your vision work! When you come to Amish Originals Furniture Co., you are purchasing furniture that will indeed be made just for you. Participate in the design process and enrich your experience with each piece of furniture you purchase.

If you are looking at a piece of furniture and you love it *but...* there is a feature, such as color, finish, or size that isn't quite what you had in mind. **Just Ask!** What you see in the showroom is a "serving suggestion" and, most of the time... styles, sizes, shapes, textiles, hardware, and finishes are interchangeable.

What's Your Primary Style?

Arts and Crafts
Contemporary
Cottage

Country
Eclectic
Formal

Mission
Modern
Rustic

Shaker
Traditional
Transitional

Not sure about color preferences or favorite furniture and decorating styles? Look beyond your current decor. For color, look at your closets -- what colors are you wearing? Look at favorite hotels, vacation spots, and restaurant environments -- what makes the atmosphere seem so inviting to you? What is your favorite piece of furniture? Why? What decorating styles are you drawn to in media, magazines, and books?

Budget

- What is my furniture budget?
- Am I on the Amish Originals Furniture Co. e-newsletter list to get the scoop on specials and sales?
- Do I have some flexibility in my budget for custom features if I am "just this close" to finding exactly what I want?
- Did I factor in delivery charges?
- Did I factor in sales tax?
- Do accessories and accents fit into the budget?
- Do I need chair pads or a table runner or placemats?
- I need to budget time because a custom furniture order can take several weeks to deliver, so how does that fit into my plans?

Notes:

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- How involved do I want to be in customizing my new furniture?
- How does my new furniture fit into my life?
- How will my new furniture affect the atmosphere in the room?
- Where will I be using my new furniture? What do I want my new furniture to do?
- How will my friends, family, pets, and I be using my new furniture?
- How does my new furniture fit into the space?
- Will my new furniture choice fit the scale of the room?
- How will my new furniture complement the other furniture in the room and vice versa?
- Am I looking for a solid wood furniture piece?
- What kind of wood would I prefer?
- What kind of wood do I currently have at home?
- What wood finish do I want? What color wood do I want?
- Is the country of origin of my new furniture important to me?
- Do I want my new furniture to be locally-made?
- If I choose upholstery, do I want a solid or a print?
- Do I want the upholstery to make a bold statement or blend into the room?
- Do I want leather upholstery or fabric?
- How much detail do I want? (Think dusting and cleaning!)
- Did I "test-drive" my new furniture the way I would use it at home -- sit on it, lie down, lean, curl up, sit at a table, open doors and drawers?
- How can I use accents and accessories in the room?

Accessories and Accents

Off the Wall:

- Framed Art
- Metal Art
- Wood Art
- Clocks
- Textiles
- Plate Racks
- Concave Squares
- Hand-painted Art
- Mirrors

Shelved:

- Wine Racks
- Vases
- Candles
- Boxes
- Trivets
- Finials
- Sculpture
- Lighting

Material Things:

- Chair Pads
- Placemats
- Table Runners
- Throws

Elemental:

- Wood
- Metal
- Ceramic
- Stone
- Glass

Floor Presence:

- Chest
- Bench
- Nesting Tables
- Sofa Table
- Occasional Tables



Checklist for Buying Wood Furniture

- Doors and drawers fit well.
- Drawers have glides and stops.
- Drawers glide easily when pulled and do not bind.
- Drawer corners are joined securely.
- Insides of drawers are smooth and snag free.
- Long shelves have center supports.
- Doors swing open easily without squeaking or rubbing.
- Long doors are attached with sturdy hinges.
- Hardware is secure and strong.
- No rough edges on hardware.
- Interior lights operate easily.
- Entertainment units have hole for electrical cords.
- Heavily balanced feeling when table is rocked.
- Table leaves fit properly.
- Table leaves match grain and finish of table.
- Table aprons are solid wood.
- Chair stretchers are glued and screwed.
- Finish feels smooth to the touch (except distressed finish).
- Distressed finish has randomly spaced dark marks.
- Corner blocks under dining tables should be glued and screwed.
- Back panels should be wood, not fiberboard, and should be recessed.
- Lumber kiln-dried to 6% moisture.

Ergonomics

er·go·nom·ics Pronunciation: \ə-r-gə-'nä-miks\ Function: *noun plural but singular or plural in construction* Etymology: *erg-* + *-nomics* (as in *economics*) Date: 1949

1 : an applied science concerned with designing and arranging things people use so that the people and things interact most efficiently and safely (From Merriam-Webster)

- Think about the presence of your furniture within the space -- for example, how wide and deep are drawers when opened, the size of a table with and without leaves, the dimensions of your television for an entertainment armoire, or the number of drawers in a dresser or hutch.
- When looking at chairs, consider the height of the back of the chair or seat -- how does the chair feel when you sit down? Does the chair support your back? Is the seating depth comfortable? Where do the back of your knees hit?
- When you sit at table or desk, how's the knee space?
- How "mobile" is your furniture? Is it easy to move? Is it heavy? Is it trollied?
- How is the clearance and interaction with other furniture?
- Have you considered how your furniture will move or sit on your floor surfaces or floor coverings?

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Measure Twice...Buy Happy!

Access, Placement, and Delivery

Destination Entryway Width: _____

Destination Entryway Height: _____

Room Entryway Width: _____

Room Entryway Height: _____

Route for Delivery into the House/Room:

Obstacles/Fixtures: _____

Stairways: _____

Turns: _____

Room Dimensions

Room Width: _____

Room Length: _____

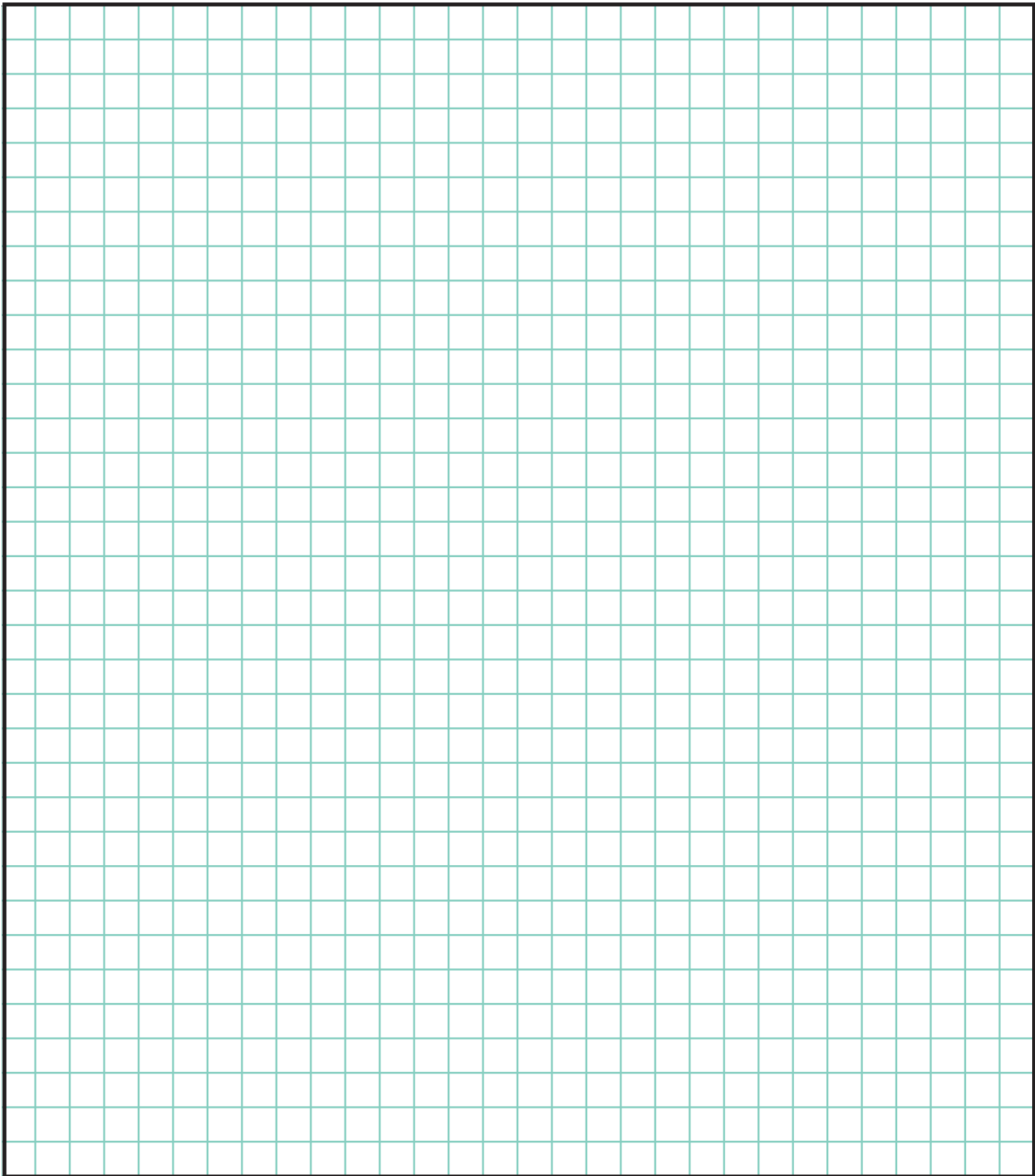
Ceiling Height: _____

Drawing Rooms

You don't have to be Monet or Michaelangelo to sketch your room design ideas and vision. Whether you use a pencil, pen, or crayon, a basic "sketch" is a great start for a great room and a great focusing tool. Here are some simple tips to help:

- **Sketch current room layout.**
- **Sketch planned room layout.**
- **Show outlets, HVAC registers, fixtures, windows, built-ins, entryways, etc.**

Tip: Quad paper (1 square = 1/4 inch) comes in handy for sketching out room plans. Check the last page of the Furniture Buyer's Toolkit for quad paper compliments of Amish Originals.



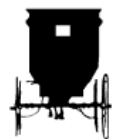
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Suggestions...

- **Measure what's there as a guideline on size (it's already in the house).**
- **Go to the Arts 'n' Crafts Toolbox: Use newspaper, masking tape, and a tape measure to create a template using the length and width of the furniture piece or, depending on the surface, create a masking tape outline on the floor.**

Room Plan Worksheet

1 Square = 1/4 inch



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