

The Making of a Man Cave

Man caves have come a long way since the term was coined 30 years ago as a “cave of solitude,” a musty, basement filled with bachelor-style decor such as beer signs and sports pennants.

While that image still exists in the popular imagination, modern man caves have evolved from sweaty sports dens with sticky floors. They’re still havens of solitude, but today’s man caves are much more stylish. Many feature high-end video and sound systems, professional pool tables luxurious recliners and bars filled with custom taps and top-shelf liquors. And they’re no longer guys only but group entertainment spaces.

Before you begin setting up your own man cave there are some considerations. These tips from the home maintenance website The Family Handyman can prepare your space for the ultimate entertainment environment.

Measure your space carefully while planning on furniture, TVs, tables and other accessories. And always know the space before you buy.



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REAL ESTATE 101

Man Cave as Property Investment

If your “man cave” is more family entertainment space than a guy’s hangout, the investment could benefit you when it’s time to sell. Homes with media centers and built-in bars can add value when it’s time to sell. Just as the cost of home theaters ranges dramatically, so does the potential impact of a home theater on property value. Learn more on the real estate site HomeLight at bit.ly/3vHe30w.

Check your wiring and outlets to see if you need an upgrade or add more. This is particularly important in rooms you are finishing (i.e., a basement).

An ultimate man cave may not need plumbing, especially if the bathroom or kitchen is a short trip away. But for other

areas, plumbing may be necessary. And a closet bathroom can prove particularly useful in basements and if you want a full bar, then a source of running water is a great addition. Plan for plumbing early on if you need it.

Choosing a theme shouldn’t be too difficult since the

space should reflect personal style. But setting an overall design theme — a sleek and modern theater experience or rustic bar/game room, for example — can help guide your choices in furniture and decorative elements.

Choose your game. If pool is your favorite pastime, make

the table the center attraction. Adding spotlights for visibility and mood can also help set the theme for your man cave. Other ideas include foosball tables, pinball machines and vintage arcade games.

Decorating should be the easy and fun part. Pennants from favorite sports teams, framed memorabilia and posters from epic events can add personality. Others focus on their hobbies and passions, such as displaying guitars or collecting books, comic books or movie memorabilia.

Every man cave needs a great video and audio system. When choosing a TV, length from the screen is probably your most important consideration. Find the display size you want, but make sure there is enough space between it and your seating to appreciate all those pixels. For sound, hidden or recessed speakers can add to the home theater atmosphere. Still others prefer the vintage appeal of turntables, with other components and speakers on display.

If you want an ultimate man cave upgrade, the site advises, include a bar section with several stools for seating, or a refrigeration cabinet/closet for storing your beverages and dips.

There are a lot of ways to set up man caves and variations are limited only by your budget.



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HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

Cap: A maximum allowable. For example, many adjustable rate mortgages have a maximum amount that the interest rate may increase over a certain time period. SOURCE: MLS.com

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