



help wanted

what's the difference

Finally! Clarification on some commonly confused household terms.



bookcase vs. étagère

Designed for sturdy storage, a **bookcase** almost always has a back, so its shelves can better support heavy books. It can be freestanding or built into a wall.

Lightweight and airy-looking, an **étagère** is a piece of furniture with multiple shelves and an open back and sides. It's a natural for displaying decorative items and books.



farmhouse sink vs. trough sink

A **farmhouse sink** is a deep kitchen sink with an apron front—i.e., there's nothing between you and the basin. Its name sounds rustic, but it works in sleek settings too.

Once found mainly in industrial settings, a **trough sink** often has two or more faucets for multiple users. Today this extra-long sink style looks sharp in a bathroom.



chinoiserie vs. toile

Chinoiserie (*shēn-wāz-rē*) design emerged out of 18th-century Europe's fascination with all things Chinese. Fabric motifs are fanciful, featuring pagodas, dragons, and flowers.

Dating back to 18th-century France, **toile** (*twā*) fabrics originally depicted rural scenes. Modern toiles are patterned with anything from carnivals to cars.



bay window vs. bow window

A **bay window** projects out from a building. The three sides (a large center window that doesn't open and two smaller, angled side windows that do) let more light into a room.

A **bow window** is a rounded bay window. It's made up of four or more windows of the same size, all of which can be designed to open. A bow is usually pricier than a bay.



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