

# A White Home On A Budget- Result? Amazing!

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Emily and Michael Knotts home is a home that has been re-invented on a budget. The couple relied on tag-sale finds with a DIY attitude when renovating their North Carolina lake house.

Emily Knotts shows us all that designing and decorating a home doesn't have to cost a bundle. [Country Living](#) reveals that Emily would always rely on the catalogue finds in the past, but this time they had to get creative, and they surprised themselves with what they could do on their own.

After moving in with her husband, Michael, into his bachelor pad lakehouse, Emily wanted to fix everything all at once. [Country Living](#) walks us through step by step how they made over white beauty without spending thousands...

Emily's thrift store scores are impressive. Paint and new upholstery can save you a ton. Consider making your own curtains like Emily did, and work with your husband to transform plumbing pipe into a new desk. Emily's husband was also able to make a rustic look-a-like Restoration Hardware style dining table for next to nothing. I love that they painted their plywood flooring a beautiful gray until they can install planks. Talk about saving a great deal of money. Emily's house can look magazine worthy today, and it doesn't have to cost a bundle. Look at saving money by keeping an eye out for rusty wood salvage. Her sliding barn doors were cast aways. With hardware from Home Depot, she saved herself thousands. Emily featured beautiful white, gray or wood collections in her home, which gave her home a clean appearance. It looks as if she took her cabinet doors off in the kitchen to display white dishes and color coordinated accessories. Borrow Emily's look by looking for containers or storage in raw wood, - either making your own, or by using vintage wire containers, such as the ones storing her onions. Make your own island from used dressers, and invest in a new stone countertop. Paint your cabinetry the same color as your appliances, to give that built in look, and distress the wood to show the quality materials underneath.

Don't be afraid of tackling things yourself. Here we see a couple who did exactly that, and worked with a budget. Oh, what inspiration!

### Emily's Dining Room

In the dining room, you would think the couple spent thousands on their furniture, but it came to be a surprise that most of what you see is either bought second hand or made by hand.

The Dining chairs were found at a yard sale for \$150 for six chairs. A quart of Annie Sloan Paint in Paris Gray gave them a refined, upscale look.

- Buy this exact chair- Napoleon Style Dining Chairs, Set of 2 [\\$117 on Amazon](#)

Emily's husband made their dining room table from following free building plans online at [ana-white.com](#). The \$3,000 Restoration Hardware table she admired in the catalog was made with lumber found on the property. The couples matching shelving was found for \$100 at the end of the International Collectibles and Antiques Show.

### Great Inexpensive Finds For The Kitchen

- Virginia Cross Back Stools \$98 (set of 2) [Amazon](#)

-Tiffany Dining Chair, Set of 2, \$127 (set of 2) [Amazon](#)

-Queen Anne Style \$122 (set of 2) On [Amazon](#)

### Emily's Living Room

Emily sewed her own curtains using sheer cotton costing only \$9 dollars a yard. *Her beautiful* 1920s cane sofa came from Craigslist. She re-upholstered this piece by using inexpensive drop cloths from Home Depot. It can be tough to find really raw looking fabric in the stores, and using these rustic looking drop cloths actually are quite durable for upholstery. Many people are using hardware-store drop cloths for upholstery, because it is inexpensive, and the material is great looking. "I love the look of linen upholstery, but not the price—drop cloths make a brilliant substitution," Emily says. Emily found her wingback chair at Goodwill, and also upholstered it using drop cloth. Brilliant!

Emily bought an inexpensive wardrobe, and had \$20 custom-cut Lowe's mirrors which do a great job of hiding the tv. A black painted distressed wooden crate serves as storage, and a sea grass rug frames the living room furniture nicely.



*Because Emily and Michael couldn't afford to put down planks or even veneer to replace the carpet, they ripped it out, then covered the plywood subflooring with pale-gray porch paint.*

*The result—a crisp, low-maintenance look that will last until the Knottses spring for hardwood—revealed that Emily had a knack for visualizing improvements.- LOVE THIS!*



*Emily used a pair of yard-sale doors to construct a sliding barn-style entrance to the home office. She discovered that "the track alone cost a couple of hundred dollars," so she substituted casters and plumbing pipes for the expensive kit. Fifty-eight dollars' worth of hardware—including casters and plumbing pipes—transformed two salvaged \$10 doors into a barn-style entry. (hardware; [homedepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com))*





*Emily won this 1909 pull-down map on eBay for only \$30 dollars. A secondhand chair and footstool from Goodwill currently go for \$349.99 total at Ikea, new, she bought for \$60 dollars. Brackets costing \$2 convert driftwood into a floating shelf. "Sea glass, spring branches, and driftwood bring beauty into your home—for free," Emily advises.*



*These wall-mounted herb boxes from Farmhouse Wares ([farmhousewares.com](http://farmhousewares.com)) give the walls that rustic touch*



*This 1930s console was a find from a friend's moving day*





*Tufted Fabric Dining Chair, Set of 2* [\\$259 on Amazon](#)



*Newport Leather Weathered Wood Arm Chair* [\\$253 on Amazon](#)



*Black Velvet Bench* [\\$188 on Amazon](#)



*Best Selling Tufted Fabric Club Chair [\\$268 on Amazon](#)*