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What was once a looming possibility is now an imminent threat. In less than 30 days, a proposed 25 per cent tariff on \$30 billion in goods imported from the United States could take effect, with home goods on the list.

If you haven't considered the impact, now is the time — buying from abroad means additional taxes at the border, making home furnishings much more expensive. In today's shifting global economy, choosing locally made furniture is not just a practical decision, but a wise one.

Canadians are facing price increases on everything from sofas to dining tables, making home-grown craftsmanship a timely and worthwhile investment. But beyond the financial impact, there are deeper, more meaningful reasons to support Canadian-made design.

"Now more than ever, we need to embrace community and appreciate one another. Creativity is a powerful way to share ideas and vulnerabilities, fostering connection and new dialogue," says Toronto ceramicist and stylist Vicky Pratt Becker of Vicky Makes Things.

Think about it. The Canadian furniture industry employs thousands of people, from designers and woodworkers to upholstery specialists, metal artisans and more. Supporting local makers not only preserves these jobs but strengthens the economy. Unlike mass-produced imports, Canadian-made furniture prioritizes quality over quantity, offering pieces designed to last both aesthetically and structurally.

A brand committed to this philosophy is De Gaspé, a Montreal-based furniture studio established in 2014. Known for its minimalist beauty, functional integrity, and lasting durability, the company embraces a quality-first approach.

"We focus on making premium, long-lasting products. If you buy a Canadian-made shirt, you expect quality, right? We believe it's the same with furniture," says Nicolas Turgeon, CEO of De Gaspé.

For many interior designers incorporating Canadian-made pieces creates a deeper connection between the design and the spaces they create. "It also highlights the value of supporting artisans who prioritize quality and innovation, ensuring my designs stand the test of time," says Nathalia Hara co-founder and principal designer at One Group Design + Build.

# MADE IN CANADA

## Does the threat of a 25 per cent tariff on home goods have you reconsidering your decorating plans? It's time to think local



The Hansen bed and nightstand in walnut by De Gaspé. All their beds are customizable and made in Canada from top-quality solid wood.



Designer Nathalia Hara values supporting Canadian artisans who prioritize quality and innovation, ensuring her designs are timeless. **MIKE CHAJECKI**



One of a kind handmade rope vases by Vicky Pratt Becker in her Toronto based studio.

Customization is another key advantage of buying locally. Many independent furniture makers offer bespoke options that mass-produced imports simply can't match.

Whether it's a dining table designed for a specific space, or a handcrafted accent chair made from locally sourced materials, choosing Canadian ensures a more personal and meaningful approach to home decor.

Customization isn't just about aesthetics — it enhances functionality and longevity. "One of the greatest benefits of made-to-order furniture is the ability to tailor pieces to exact needs and preferences, something mass-produced imports simply can't provide," says Turgeon.

Becker agrees, adding, "I enjoy working with clients to create a piece that is just right for them. Made-to-order offers endless possibilities."

This level of personalization not only ensures a perfect look but also elevates the overall design experience. Canadian-made furniture seamlessly blends artistry with practicality, incorporating natural materials such as wood, stone, and metal. The country's design language ranges from modern minimalism to rustic sophistication, easily adapting to diverse interiors.

"Canadian-made furniture strikes a beautiful balance between functionality and artistry," says Evelyn Eshun, founder of the award-winning Toronto-based design firm Evelyn Eshun Design.

Sustainability is another compelling reason to choose Canadian-made home goods. According to public opinion research commissioned by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, eight in 10 Canadians value a sustainable lifestyle.

Imported pieces travel thousands of kilometres before reaching a home in Canada, significantly increasing their carbon footprint. Choosing locally made furniture supports greener, more responsible production methods while reducing environmental impact.

"Sustainability starts with what goes into the product and how it's made. We use locally sourced materials, clean energy for production, eco-friendly finishes, and reusable packaging. Plus, one per cent of our revenue goes back into tree planting," says Turgeon.

With a growing shift toward conscious consumerism, now is the perfect time to invest in Canadian-made furniture and decor. Choosing local avoids unnecessary price hikes, supports artisans, reduces environmental impact, and brings home pieces with depth and quality. That's worth it, eh?