



## Photographs and Memories

Through the years, many of us accumulate pictures of the people, places and things we love. We may have inherited portraits of ancestors, collected snapshots of favorite friends and family pets, and added vacation and school photos, and wedding and baby pictures.

Pictures evoke fond memories, and many can be displayed throughout your home. Why, where and how they are displayed can make all the difference. The goal is for them to appear an attractive presentation versus a collection of clutter.

First of all, ask yourself if some pictures can be retired to the photo album or other storage. Not all photos that were framed ten, twenty or thirty years ago are still relevant and appropriate to your day to day life. Examples may include the elementary school graduation shot, the spring break party candid, or the extravagant wedding picture of the now-divorced nephew.

Separating the pictures from their frames is a good place to start. You can then choose which individual photos to keep first, and then which frames. A beautiful frame makes any picture look better, just as an old, dated one can totally negate its overall appeal.

Next, determine which pictures might be displayed together: all the antique family portraits; photos taken with friends; and recent family pictures, for example. Heirloom portraits show well among antique furniture pieces, pictures of friends may be especially enjoyed in your guest room, and a family gallery can be created in your hallway, along the staircase, or on a landing area.

A photo grouping is most attractive when the pieces are related, either by frame type or matting color. For example, a dozen black frames all matted in cream will make a collection of disjointed photos seem related and compatible. This effect can be intensified when all the pictures are reprinted in either black and white, or sepia tone.

Using floating shelves, and mixing framed photos with other related objects is a creative and fun way to display some of your favorite things. Consider a set of vacation shots interspersed with seashells, local masks, pottery, shot glasses, or other collectibles amassed during your getaways.

Individual pictures in attractive frames can also be scattered throughout your home. Place a favorite individual photo among other decorative objects, or several among books in the

library, for example. Make sure that the frame and photo is complimentary to its surroundings, so that it will add interest to the grouping, and not detract.

Photographs are among the most personal items we have in our home. When a house is prepared to sell, one of the first things stagers suggest is that the homeowners remove all personal photographs, as they naturally attract attention, and we want buyers to be looking only at the house.

But while you are creating a home for yourself, enjoy the pictures you have chosen to display around you, for they uniquely tell the story of your life.

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