



Simple Holiday Decorations

We will all have ample opportunity to spend too much money this holiday season, but you can choose to keep it simple when decorating your home. In the spirit of interior redesign, let's discuss ways to embellish your home for the season using things you may already have around your house and yard.

Keep your eyes open as nature evolves around you, and take time to bring some of the outdoors in. Accent the holiday table with colorful leaves, small pinecones, or branch clippings to add a touch of the season. Add evergreens to the mantle or table; clip small bunches of seasonal berries, and tuck them into a basket of pinecones, or into a container of kindling interspersed with evergreen; fill a beautiful bowl with persimmons, pomegranates, pears or red apples.

Everyday items can be used creatively to celebrate the season: brass, silver, crystal or wooden candlesticks can be grouped and filled with candles in holiday colors. A clear glass bowl, water pitcher, or collection of wineglasses can be filled with colorful glass bulbs and displayed in the china cabinet or on a side table. Clear glass cylinders can be partially filled with cranberries before nestling a pillar candle inside.

Touches of red, or another favorite holiday color, can be spread around the home to instill instant touches of cheer. Consider using items in your chosen color, like plates, platters, and glassware, or pillows, throws, and tablecloths. Display these things in different areas of the home to create a natural flow of consistent holiday color.

Lengths of fancy wired ribbon can be tied around the corners of a hanging picture or mirror to mimic the look of a wrapped gift. Even a small stack of old leather books can be wrapped in beautiful ribbon and added to a tabletop. Ornamental ribbon can also weave through tabletop vignettes, a display of holiday cards or around a favorite indoor plant or tree.

Wrapped gifts can be used as decorations, too. Gather some festively wrapped boxes, and nestle them into an empty corner, or use them, along with some candles or greenery, as a tabletop display. Wrap empty boxes with plain paper and ornate bows and tuck them into the pots of plants, stack them on tabletops, or scatter them on display shelves.

Children's toys can make whimsical, sentimental holiday decorations. Stuffed animals can be grouped, with bows tied around their necks, and displayed in a large decorative

container, on a window seat, or tucked under the tree. Old wooden skis or an antique sled are appropriate winter props, as well as a rocking horse, old toy truck or a favorite doll.

I hope this inspires you to take a look around your home, in your yard and through your closets, and to take advantage of some of the lovely, natural or inherited items you have which will help you create a warm and inviting home for the holidays. As in life, it is often surprising to realize that we already have all that we really need.

Happy holidays to all!

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