

Home Décor for the Holidays

LOOKING FOR SOME FRESH DECORATING IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS? LOOK NO FURTHER: WE ASKED LOCAL EXPERTS TO SHARE THEIR FAVORITE WAYS TO DECK THE HALLS.

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It's easy to get in a decorating rut when you drag out the same old bins full of the same old trimmings each year. This holiday season, shake things up a bit by trying some of these tips from the pros. For yuletide ideas, we turned to Debbie Sheaf, ASID and owner of the Feather Your Nest home and garden consignment store in College Park; Anne Rue, owner of Anne Rue Interiors in Lake Mary and a finalist on the HGTV Star design competition; green living expert Kimberly Button, Orlando-based author of *The Everything Guide to a Healthy Home* and founder of greenWell, an eco-wellness consulting company; and floral designers Cindi Deyoung and Maureen Girdley of Greenery Productions in Orlando.



FORGO TRADITION AND TRY SOMETHING NEW, such as using nostalgic framed photos of your guests instead of name cards at each place setting.

Creatively Clever: Debbie's Tips

Keep The Home Fires Sparkling: Accessorize your mantel with clear glass containers filled with mounds of pinecones, greens, small ornaments or even candy that coordinates with your color scheme. Add extra sparkle by including battery-operated lights in the mix.

Toss Traditional for Trendy: On the front door, break away from the single evergreen wreath and hang multiple wreaths in a bold color instead. Step outside the traditional red-and-green holiday scheme with unexpected hues, such as turquoise and white. And instead of using name cards on your place settings, display small, framed photos of your guests.

Five-Minute Fixups:

- Suspend glittering stars or beautiful ornaments from the ceiling on fishing line.
- Create extra dimension by hanging a wreath over an existing mirror; tack up a strand of twinkling lights and hang your holiday cards using painted or decorated clothes pins.
- Hang stockings using twine/yarn on each family member's chair around the kitchen table.
- Use a curtain rod mounted on a wall to hang your stockings—as your family grows you don't have to worry about finding hangers that match your old ones.
- Amplify your chandelier's sparkle by adding ornaments or extra crystals.



BRING BACK CHILDHOOD MEMORIES or help create new ones by creating little vignettes with fresh evergreens and old books.





An Artful Outlook: Anne's Tips

Think Outside of the Card Box: Display your holiday cards in an unexpected way, such as on an antique shutter. Just slip the cards into the slats, and voilà: instant arty impact.

Heavy Mettle: Metallics are the new "it" color. And don't be afraid to mix your metals; silver and gold work beautifully together.

Lighten Up: Incorporate candles in your holiday tablescape as the focal point, and toss the typical candlesticks in favor of more unusual holders, such as repurposed bottles in a variety of shapes and sizes. Dip them in paint for added interest.

Square Off: Instead of rounding out your décor with a circular wreath at the door, try hanging a frame by a pretty ribbon and group a number of ornaments together inside the frame for a unique and fun effect at the front door.

Get a New Hang-Up: You may be tempted to always hang the stockings at the mantel—don't. Instead, find a unique place in your home—along the stair rail, from the knobs of your entertainment unit, a coat rack or another unexpected place.



Turn Over a New Leaf: Cindi and Maureen's Tips

The Table's Set: Create a dramatic centerpiece with a grouping of pillar candles on a wood tray accented with fresh magnolia leaves. Add colorful glass ornaments in bright colors such as vivid red and lime green.

Make an Entrance: Flank the doorway with boxwood topiaries in decorative urns, or line your walkway with groupings of poinsettia plants or with ivory wax luminaries to provide a welcoming glow.

Pare It Down: Instead of tackling the overwhelming task of decorating the whole house, focus on a few key areas such as the foyer, dining table and living room—or wherever your family and guests spend the most time during the holidays; even on your lanai, where you can enjoy the weather.

K.I.S.S.: The holidays can be overwhelming, so keep your decorating plan simple and by all means—have fun! **oam**

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WHAT A CARD: Hang wide satin ribbons in festive colors from your kitchen cabinets for an easy, inexpensive and unique way to display your holiday cards.



SIMPLIFY: The holidays are stressful enough, so avoid putting extra pressure on yourself by keeping your decorations simple. Here, antique holiday cards look elegant when displayed on decorative garland.



Go Green: Kimberly's Tips

Take a Bough: Christmas tree sellers often trim off excess boughs and discard them; ask if you can take some home with you to make door swags, trim a mantel, window sill or bookshelf, or decorate a table. Not only are they free, they're a completely natural way to bring the evergreen scent of the season inside.

Bowled Over: Fill a piece of your fine china or glassware with ornaments, either ones you already have or inexpensive ones bought at a mass retailer. They'll last all season and can be repurposed again and again over the years.

It's a Wrap: Cover every frame hanging on the wall in holiday wrapping paper for a fun and frugal way to dress up a room. Recycle the giftwrap afterwards to be eco-friendly.

Follow Your Heart, Not Trends: Buy what you love, avoid trying to be trendy, and use those items year after year. They will quickly become family heirlooms.



KIMBERLY BUTTON