

Decorating ideas to transform the home for the holidays

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Preparing the home for entertaining family and friends can swing from delightful to frightful during the holidays. This season, why not try your hand at simple do-it-yourself home projects that add warmth and color to the home while creating fun activities the whole family can enjoy.

With the right inspiration, one can easily spread holiday cheer and create a welcoming home environment for guests.

“Design and color inspirations surround us in nature, in existing decor and from within the family and its traditions,” said Sue Kim, color trend and forecast specialist for Valspar. “Drawing on that inspiration, and with some quick changes to existing decor and a few strokes of paint, anyone can transform the appearance of their home in time for the holidays, creating a sense of warmth without a lot of effort.”

Below are some entertaining, affordable and easy-to-implement decorating ideas for this year’s holiday festivities.

—Create an inviting door: Make a unique first impression and add a burst of holiday color to the outside of your home. Apart from standard holiday lights and lawn ornaments, a unique display of holiday spirit can greet guests at the front door.

First, start with a primer before painting the door a color of your choice to ensure the color layers on smoothly. Hoist a contrasting wreath onto the door to create a more defined look. Also, if the home has a stairwell at the entrance, wrap it with garlands that match the colors on the door to carry the color into the interior of the home.

—Stencil in the holiday spirit: Stencil holiday-inspired designs onto otherwise plain pillows, placemats or a dining room tablecloth for a handmade and festive decoration. Fun craft projects like these brighten the mood and offer a family activity for the holidays. Someone can also stencil around windows to add an elegant holiday-theme to a room instead of buying elaborate window treatments. One can either create their own homemade stencils or buy some at the local craft or home improvement store.

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—Shimmer up the table: Consider taking objects from nature, such as pine cones, branches, leaves or even sea shells and spraying them with metallic colored paint. Gold and silver can be popular during the holidays depending upon the theme.

Place these objects in the center of the table on a beautifully rich colored table cloth so they pop against the background, and set candles out on the table for a shimmery effect. Complete the look by layering on the color with red, green or blue tinted holiday glassware.

—Switch out the color: Make a conscious effort to switch out colored pillows, throws and even lampshades throughout the home. The powder room is most frequented by guests during a party, yet it is often overlooked or underemphasized while decorating.

Switch out hand towels and bath rugs for more holiday tones. Use stencils to add accents to lamp shades, or create a festive floor mat. Weave in other elements such as candles, soap or lotions. Careful attention to decor in this space is sure to get noticed and complete the experience.