

How to Create the Ultimate Holiday Haven

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How to Create the Ultimate Holiday Haven

By Michelle Maffei

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Bring the Bling

Embellish your domicile with décor that shimmers as brightly as the snow when you trim your space with all that sparkles. With the right crystal ornaments, jewel-studded vases and glittery candles, you can give your home a glitzy guise that will give Broadway a run for its money. "The holidays are truly about entertaining and going all out," explains [design expert Cathy Hobbs of Cathy Hobbs Design Recipes™](#). "So why not add a little bit of sparkle and 'bling' while still being true to the spirit and traditional décor often associated with the holidays? When it comes to being creative, some of my favorite ideas this holiday season are using materials that have high sheen, tactile materials and reflective surfaces."

Feather Your Nest

Peacocks are all the rage right now, so it's no surprise that feathers would make such an impression with holiday décor enthusiasts. Most feather-covered wreaths and mini trees can be found in white, red, green or blue as December approaches, however, any shade of plumes will give your dwelling a soft yet chic look during the holiday season.

Add Radiance

To really make your holiday scene shine, adorn your abode with mirror and metallic elements on your tables, shelves and walls. "One thing I love for the holidays is adding touches of metallic ... but beyond just silver bells," explains style expert Jene Luciani, Westchester, NY. "I love gold bows on the edges of tree branches – the more shine, the better! It's something glitzy to punctuate all the red and green." Think clusters of jingle bells and bowls of gold, silver and brass glass ornaments. Add holiday-inspired mirrors to the walls and metal chargers to your place settings. And, you can even place candles on silver trays for a little extra illumination.

Go Green for the Holidays

It's hip to go eco-friendly when it comes to your holiday décor. Adorn your door with dried herb wreaths, burn beeswax candles, and seek out festive reclaimed or recycled ornaments that are good to Mother Earth. But, being green doesn't mean you have to skip on the electric elements. Spring for energy-efficient LED lights and solar-powered outdoor décor that is just as festive it is Earth-friendly.

Mix in Vintage

Old is new again, so mixing vintage holiday pieces with modern festive flair will make an even bigger impact than just sticking to one theme. “Building our collection involves a lot of scouring the Internet for holiday items that remind us of our childhood,” shares Janine Mahoney, Shelter Island, NY. “We have an antique light-up elf that we take out at Christmas time. We have an old sled that leans against the front of the house during the holidays. Even vintage glass ornaments that we’ve found at estate sales are beautiful and add so much to the holidays.”

White It Out

Skip the dated décor featuring Santa and company and pack a lot of punch by creating a white winter wonderland both inside and out. Think plain white dishes, creamy ivory candles, snow-covered conifers and all white twinkle lights for a holiday setting that is clean and crisp. But, don’t stop with your entertainment space; swap out throw pillows and bedroom linens for crisp white ones to create the ultimate winter retreat. Just be sure your simple white scheme doesn’t get boring by opting for tablecloths, linens and more that include tons of texture and patterns.

Make a Sweet Statement

Coupling traditional flowers with mouthwatering touches like candies and nuts will give customary centerpieces a tasty twist that also tickles your senses. Try filling bowls, jars and ornamental glasses with bite-sized bits and add them in and around your holiday adornments to give ordinary floral pieces a little extra holiday hint. Or, tie tall candy canes and cinnamon sticks around vases and glass candleholders for a centerpiece that smells divine. “Especially during the holidays, I love changing the room’s energy by burning essential oils in candle-lit diffusers,” explains Sara Chana Silverstein, a classical homeopath and herbalist, New York, NY. “The aroma, combined with the glow of the diffusers, gives my home a relaxing and cozy feel.”

Regardless of your holiday style, the most important rule for creating the ultimate holiday haven is to set a scene that reflects your taste. “Holiday décor should always have a relationship to the interior design of one’s home, whether modern or traditional,” advises Martin Raffone, Martin Raffone LLC Interior Design. “And, less is always more. Simple seasonal greens, candles and a few sparkly things always work and make one’s spaces feel festive without overwhelming your interiors.”

No matter which décor you choose, remember this: If it feels festive, then you’re doing something right! Happy holidays!