



Decorating for a holiday is one of the most enjoyable times of any season. A beautifully accessorized home always starts with a plan. Do you want to reflect a tantalizing color theme? Is a glittering look what you're after? Are visions of sugared fruits dancing in your head during the winter holidays?

One of the best ways to decorate for the holidays is to remove everyday accessories and carefully store them. You'll now have plenty of space to introduce holiday accents. Start with wall décor first – wreaths and sconces for instance. Don't be afraid to replace artwork over fireplaces and buffets with wreaths that compliment the scheme you've planned. Replace smaller artwork groupings with sconces and glittered candles for a festive touch.

Bookcases, mantels, and shelving would be the next place to decorate. Place decorative objects first. Remember to group like items in odd numbers for greater impact. For instance, a collection of five nutcrackers should be together, or a series of beautifully colored gourds. Do you have hurricane candleholders? Switch the candles to fit the decorating plan. Books should be stacked or leaned, and can be grouped according to color or size for a neater presentation. Have fun with holiday bookends as well! Once the core accents are in place, add foliage to fill in and soften the look. Add colorful touches with ribbons or themed ornaments depending on your scheme.

Furniture will be the last area to spruce up. Tables and buffets need beautiful cloths, runners, and accessory groupings. Think of long and low for these flat surfaces for a more dramatic effect, with the tallest item in the center. Depending on your existing upholstery fabrics, try festive pillows! Bath vanities can always use some holiday fun as well. Beds can be dressed with beautiful sheets, duvets, throws and pillow shams.

For families with young children, stuffed animals and unbreakable accessories are the best way to decorate. Baskets decorated with glittering ribbons can be filled with stuffed toys and books. Decorative doorknob rings can be made by children to add interest at their eye level, which helps keep their fingers off of accessories you might not want touched.

Whatever you decide, repeating it throughout your home will create a fantastic holiday look!

