

HOLIDAY DÉCOR DECORATION DECISIONS

You've just started to settle down into your new home, with many of your home décor decisions already made or, at least, in the making. Add the holidays to the mix and a whole new set of decorating dilemmas pop up: What to do about your holiday décor now that you are in new surroundings – do you decorate your tree the same way as always? Do you use the same ornaments again? What about colours or themes? Are you working with new elements that your old home didn't have – like a fireplace or big bay windows?

Maybe it's time to freshen up your decorations and change things up a bit. Streamlining your decorations can have more impact on your overall holiday look and can help you to showcase your new home in an uncluttered way. Think about how you decorated in the past and consider the following to help you infuse holiday cheer into your new home:

GRANDMA'S HAND-ME-DOWNS

We all have them, the special ornaments that may be slightly broken but loved just the same. They have been in the family for years so how can you possibly toss them out? I give you permission. Don't take a whole box of gingerbread men and angels out to the curb too hastily though. Sit down – maybe with your own children and pick out the ones you love and the ones that actually match the rest of your decorations. Another thing to consider before pitching anything is monetary value. There are many collectors of vintage decorations so do a bit of research if you think you have an oldie but a goody. If you still can't stand the thought of throwing them out, drop them off at your pack-rat brother's place so he can carry on the tradition and you can have more space!

TRUE COLOURS

What colours are found in your decorations? A mish-mash of everything or do you match up your living room? Choose one main colour and mix it with holiday hues like golds, pearls and silvers for a dramatic effect. White lights or one colour is a simple and elegant way to highlight your festive décor. Don't be afraid to pack up the red and green balls to replace them with the new hot oranges that are available now. You might be surprised to see the stylish difference.

THEME ME UP

Take a look at your decorations all together. Notice a common theme? If not, consider an element to tie everything all together. For example, fresh greenery is not too costly and it is a great backdrop for all your ornaments, lights and other holiday items. Mirrored glass is very chic at the moment and offers another reflective surface for sparkle – mix it with other glasses and crystals for a contemporary look. Sugared fruit ornaments and garlands are easily found and allow brighter colours to be injected into your home. Bring a sense of serenity to your décor by choosing white snowmen and hand crocheted angels to decorate. If you prefer country looks, work with wooden ornaments and cinnamon sticks and layer quilts on furniture to create that welcoming feel.

When decorating, consider your home's ambiance and take it from there. If this is your first Christmas in your new home, take a trip to a department store to see how they lay out their stock in themed areas for ideas. Finally, once you've chosen your theme and colours, just one more stop to pick out matching pyjamas for the Christmas morning photos!