

design exchange

insider design secrets, endless ideas and
vendor recommendations

Angela
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DESIGNS

Seasonal Decorating: A New Definition

In late November and early December we trek to our attic or storage closet in search of holiday decor. Most of us don't stop with just the tree. We change our mantels, table tops, and dining areas to elaborate displays of garland, candles and twinkling holiday lights. Some of us even adjust furnishings to accommodate our holiday tree. Have you ever noticed how exciting it is to see your home decorated in a new way?

Why not change up your home more often for seasonal changes? Seasonal decorating has gained fast popularity. The concept is fairly straightforward and can be likened to your wardrobe. Although you may have some clothes in your closet that can be worn in any season, you undoubtedly

wouldn't pull out your sundress for a cold Oregon January day.

Treat your home the same way and layer up for winter. Place inviting warm throws on your ottoman or a chair, exchange artwork with winter inspired prints, bring in darker colors, chunky candlesticks, rich velvety pillows and cozy fabrics. In the spring time, pull back some of those layers. Consider a cream cotton slip cover



for a cozy chair, choose knitted throws, introduce lighter accent colors, cooler toned accessories and update your artwork to inspire the season.

In addition to freshening up your room, seasonal decorating has some not so obvious advantages as well. Most of us over accessorize our rooms. Over accessorized rooms confuse the eye. It is like your eye doesn't focus anywhere and nothing seems special. You can find more room for pieces you love when you have two versions of your room.

Try seasonal decorating. You will see immediately why it has gained so much buzz. Every few months, your "old" things will appear fresher and will excite your eyes in ways they haven't in years.



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Written by Angela Todd
from a designer's perspective

Highlights

- Seasonal Decorating isn't just for the holidays anymore
- Top ways to freshen up your space without breaking the bank
- Grand opening of home furnishing store near Washington Square

'Decorator's Warehouse' Now Open!

If you visited the Washington Square Mall for holiday shopping, you probably still missed it. Tucked next to Cost Plus, behind Barnes and Noble and Starbucks is the Decorator's Warehouse.

The store is loaded with French country inspired treasures,

traditional pieces with an updated "now" twist, and mirrors and wall clocks galore. A home décor enthusiast could spend hours drooling over the mirrored chests, garden urns and china cabinets.

Best of all, prices are affordable. Decorator's Warehouse

is owned by Classic Antiques downtown Portland. These are their clearance pieces. BUT you won't believe the quality.

If you want company—call me. I would gladly get lost in there!



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visit Angela's web site for more design ideas.

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Fresh Ideas to Freshen Up any Decor

I understand the urge to update and transform your space without breaking the bank. Below are a few of my favorite 'do it yourself' ideas to instantly freshen up any room.

1. Pick up an aisle or two. Use them in bookshelves, table tops and china cabinets to display plates, a favorite book or artwork.



2. Lean a mirror on the floor, or on a table rather than hanging it. Make sure it reflects something beautiful.

3. Every room needs a critter: leopard, sheepskin, zebra, cow hide... Add a pillow, a throw or an ottoman in animal print.

4. Matching tables or lamps? Separate them. The element of surprise is fabulous in design. Exchange one of your bedroom end tables in the living room, buy a floor lamp for the sofa and place your paired lamp in the hallway or powder room.

5. Have a chandelier that needs updating? If it has good lines paint it white or black or (if you feel daring) a bright accent color.



6. Open your favorite coffee table book wide to a page that inspires you.

7. Mismatched photo frames? Pull the photos out and paint them all one color. Wow!

8. Pull your sofa off the wall and put a table, desk or chest behind it.

9. Count your accessories. Are you arranging in odd numbers? If not, pull something.

10. Consider mismatching your dining room table chairs with a bench, upholstery and/or wood chairs.



Promise to take before and after photos for me!

For additional fresh design 'do it yourself' ideas visit:

www.nwinteriordesigner.com