

It's Christmas Decorating Time!



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As far back as I can remember, Christmas has always been a magical time of year; whether it's in the music, the festive atmosphere, or the decorations that fill store windows, streets and the entrances of homes!

If you're anything like me, the Holidays always seem to be here before we know it. There's never enough time, and it's a little overwhelming thinking about all that has to get done by the 25th.

So to help ease the stress, here are a few easy tips to fill your Christmas day with festive flavour – without having to go overboard.

1 **The aromas!**

Scents have a surprising ability to awaken even our earliest memories. Take advantage of them to create a familiar, feelgood atmosphere in your home. Place some orange peel and whole cloves in a pot of boiling water on the stove. Allow them to infuse. A welcoming aroma of Christmas will spread throughout the house.

2 **A centerpiece of ice!**

Insert some pine needles along with some cranberries through the opening of a balloon. Next, slip the balloon opening over the tap. Fill the balloon with water, remove it from the tap, and tie a knot. Place the balloon in the freezer. Repeat this procedure to make several crystalline balls of ice. Once the ice is completely set, pierce the balloons and remove the balls of ice. Line the bottom of a deep bowl with some cuttings from the Christmas tree, and arrange the decorative balls of ice over top. Watch the cranberries surface as the evening progresses!

3 **Candleholders add warmth!**

Just about any object that can contain a candle can be turned into a candleholder: an old sugar bowl, a cup found in a second-hand shop, you name it. Fill each container three quarters of the way up with coarse salt and bury a tealight into it. Arrange your assortment of candleholders together on a platter.

4 **A table top Christmas Tree!**

Simply insert a set of Christmas lights into a large vase or glass jar. Increase the dazzling effect by adding a garland of tinsel. Discreetly position the cord coming out of the vase and plug it into a socket.

5 **Christmas paper napkins set the tone!**

A simple dessert served on a decorative Christmas napkin, while sipping on warm apple cider with cinnamon stick. What could be more festive! To complete the Holiday atmosphere, envelop your home in soft Christmas melodies. There are some classics that I love, which Michael Bublé has recaptured brilliantly. On this joyous note, and on behalf of the National Home Show, I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season!

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for new exhibitors!*

*On this joyous note, and on behalf of
the National Home Show, I'd like to wish
everyone a wonderful Holiday Season!
I'll be back in January to talk home decorating.*

Manon LeBlanc
Spokesperson
National Home Show



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From March 20 to 29, 2009 Place Bonaventure