

Stylish Solutions

Last Minute Holiday Décor Ideas

By Ann McDonald



We're nearing the holiday finish line. But just as we start to run through it, have you ever had this happen? You are feeling all warm and cozy and then your friend or spouse utters these words "we should..." followed by an off the cuff invitation to host a last minute get together at your home. No problem, you say. It all sounds fabulous when you have sugarplums in your head, but then you arrive home and realize you never quite pulled the holiday décor together.

Suddenly the tree is looking more Charlie Brown than Pottery Barn, the dining table is strewn with holiday cards and your kitchen/family room looks more like a shopping bag factory than an inviting space to host friends.

What to do? First, don't panic. You don't have to redecorate or spend \$5,000 with overnight shipping from a luxury holiday store to get ready inside of 72 hours.

Here are my top tricks to get you, the stylish suburbanite, on track fast.

1) DO: Think outside the box. Take a deep breath and remember, if you are headed out last minute for supplies, the traditional holiday product shelves may well be barren. A chipped Santa or painted wooden snowman is not exactly couture level decorating. Use the lack of choices to your advantage and stay true to your home's current color scheme. Purchase beautiful accessory items you can use all year with ease. Think sets of pretty glasses, pots or planters that match your home, silver anything.

2) DON'T: Reinvent the wheel. Remember, the reason we decorate our homes for the holiday season is to bless, not to impress. That means if we love something someone else has done and it blesses us with beauty, that is enough. At market a few months ago, I sourced topiaries that were stunning, expensive and made to order. For my own home, they were not practical financially or from a time standpoint. What did I do? I separated the elements as inspiration and created my own.

My team and I gathered planters and pots I already owned (we call it shed shopping), purchased faux boxwood balls with battery operated lights and went to the back yard to find striking oversized tree twigs which we used instead of antlers.



We used carpet squares with mirrors laid flat, shredded holiday cards, and a soft basket filled with the same type of shredding to hold the buffet silverware and a candle with glass hurricane.

Photos Couture Chateau

