

<http://homestyletoday.com>

<http://homestyletoday.com/resources/articles/homedressing.php>

# UNCONVENTIONAL HOLIDAY DECOR

## Dressing Your Home for the Season

BY SUZY FEINE

**T**HIS YEAR, DECORATE YOUR HOME WITH seasonal decorations versus holiday ones. Unconventional holiday décor comes in many types and styles, all with a shelf life of at least three months instead of three weeks. This type of décor conveys a sense of holiday warmth without the holiday statement, allowing you to keep them up for the duration of the winter season.

**BRING NATURE INDOORS.** Décor from nature, such as pinecones, tree boughs, fresh flowers, fruit and nuts, can create interesting displays and convey that warm appeal that can last throughout the season. By bringing nature indoors, you can easily decorate for the holiday season with items that become part of your standard décor.

Casey Cooper, special event floral designer and owner of Botanicals, Inc. in Chicago, Ill., recommends using ingredients from nature instead of the store when decorating for the holidays. "If you prefer warm, earthy and tactile, arrange several wooden bowls, trays or warm-colored ceramics and fill one with pine cones, one with cranberries, another with white pine tips and another with cinnamon sticks or maybe orange slices," she says. "Line a long table with a wide ribbon and line up nature's elements for a textual display."

Topiary trees — small trees sheared or pruned into a shape — add a classic and stately look to your décor during the holidays or anytime, says Cooper. "Topiary trees are a wonderful holiday item that can be dressed for the season



with beautiful ribbons, and after the holiday, the ribbons come off and you have a lovely pair of topiaries that will last throughout the year," she says.

**A FLICKERING FLAME.** Candles are a favorite of many decorators and homeowners alike. The simple statement of a candle grouping and the warmth of the scent drifting through the room make can-

dles the ideal decorating item any time of the year, but especially during the holidays.

To select candles for a year-around display, Cooper recommends staying with white or ivory candles. "Dress them up with cloves or pearl and rhinestone pins for the holiday," she says. "Festive trim, beading or ribbon banding can be an easy and fun way to decorate pillar candles of varying sizes and shapes. After the holidays, remove all trim and maintain a cozy glow in your home on those long winter evenings."

Groupings are key with the candles, says Cooper. "Line the mantle, cluster them on end tables and entry tables, pick your favorite tray or platter and feature an eclectic mix of candles on the dining room table," she says.

Seasonal decorating can infuse the warmth, style and sense of family created by the holiday season into your home all winter long. This type of decorating is cost-effective, as money is not spent on décor that is only usable for a few weeks. Plus, it fills the home with scents of the season, fresh ingredients from nature and a style uncommon to many holiday homes. ■