

HOME DECOR & MORE



Simple ways to dress up your home for the holidays

The holiday season is rife with traditions that focus on fun and family. One such testament to the festive spirit of the holiday season is the many homes and businesses decorated with the lights and colors that have become synonymous with the season. Decorating for the holiday season can be time-consuming.

While decking the halls may not consume as much time as holiday shopping and wrapping presents, according to data from a 2013 American Time Use Survey, interior and exterior decorating for the holidays may consume anywhere from 2.5 to 3 hours per session.

includes things as simple as setting up a menorah or as complex as stringing lights on the exterior of a home. Though elaborate displays can take hours to erect, time-crunched holiday celebrants can still create festive, welcoming displays.

much time to decorate can invest in a couple of holiday wreaths, which can be dressed up as much or as little as celebrants prefer. If you do not have the time to string lights on the house, wrap them around wreaths hung in windows or hang the wreaths on a home's main entrance. Celebrants who want to go a less traditional route can hang wreaths made of holly, citrus fruits, ribbons, or any other greenery instead of the more customary evergreen wreaths.

• Focus on the front door and entryway. Celebrants who do not have the time to decorate their entire homes can create a warm, inviting space by decorating their front doors and entryways. Place greenery, bows, tinsel, lights, and winter-inspired accessories by the front door so friends and family visiting for the season catch the holiday

spirit the moment they walk through the door.
• Place LED candles in windows. Rather than contending with twinkle lights and electric cords, homeowners can employ battery-operated faux candles to create a homey appeal in windows and hallways throughout their homes.



Simplify holiday decorating with some easy tips to make houses cozy and festive.

• Decorate with ornaments. Ornaments are not exclusive to Christmas trees. Fill a vase or bowl with metallic ornaments and place it in a prominent location, such as a busy hallway or the foyer of your home. Hang ornaments on clear filament from the mantle or within the main window of the house, where they can reflect tree lights and add sparkle.

• Bring in more greenery. Drape evergreen boughs on staircase handrailings or on the mantle, or use greenery to frame doorways. The scent will be inviting and things instantly will look more festive.

• Use throws and decorative pillows. Change the look of a room with holiday-colored decor if you do not want to clutter the space with knickknacks. A red and green blanket draped over the sofa can give off a comforting holiday vibe.

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The Friends of Ten Thousand Villages Nov 25-26

Truro is making a difference in the lives of artisans around the world by selling exquisite, handcrafted gifts and home décor. The event will be held at Immanuel Baptist Church, 295 Young St., on November 25th and 26th. It offers an opportunity for citizens of Truro, NS to make a difference by shopping fair trade. Shoppers will also learn more about skilled artisans in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In its 23rd year the sale will showcase a beautiful assortment of musical instruments, pottery, jewellery, baskets, toys, crèches and hand loomed textiles.

At only seven years old, Saphia, a young girl living in the village of Garalia, Bangladesh, became crippled by polio just days after losing her mother. Her father, mistakenly believing her paralysis

was caused by black magic, spent the precious little money he had on a local healer to cure her. He even sold some of his much-needed land to pay for a cure that never materialized. Forced into heavy labour to feed his family, he too soon died.

Saphia, now disabled, was left to care for two younger brothers. It's a story that could have ended in ruin. But for Saphia, she has had anything but a sad ending. With her own ingenuity - and with support from CORR-The Jute Works (CJW), she has gone on to thrive.

CJW launched in 1973, originally aimed at helping war widows and marginalized rural women. The organization, which started in a garage and with five artisans, now invests in improving market access for its producers, and

exports products around the world to fair trade retailers such as Ten Thousand Villages. Today, CJW works with over 3,000 artisans, most of them women.

Ten Thousand Villages works with artisans who would otherwise be unemployed, or underemployed creating opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn an income by bringing their products and stories to markets in North America.

This income helps pay for food, education, health care, and housing. Ten Thousand Villages works with over 120 different artisan groups from more than 30 countries across the globe.

"By holding this sale, we're giving customers in Truro, NS a chance to buy unique products while helping people in

developing countries to meet basic needs for themselves and their family. Together we are making a difference," says Brenda Leenders, sale organizer.

The Friends of Ten Thousand Villages - Truro are hosting a Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sale at Immanuel Baptist Church, 295 Young St., Truro on Friday, November 25 from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM and Saturday, November 26 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

All proceeds of the sale support artisans partnered with Ten Thousand Villages, the oldest and largest Fair Trade Organization in North America, (70 years). The sale owes its success to dedicated local volunteers.

For more information on the Truro sale contact Brenda Leenders at 893-4197.

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