



Refining Home Holiday Design This Year

How to use natural elements and trendy hues to create a cozy and inviting space this holiday season.

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Making your home “holiday ready” doesn’t have to mean streaming your house in lights or incorporating red and green into nearly every room. To gain some professional insight, ESTATENVY recently spoke with two interior designers to get their input on how to take a simple, elegant approach to holiday decorating this year. Julia Buckingham, Principal & Owner of Buckingham Interiors + Design in Chicago stresses that the best holiday decor is simple and unique in nature.

“There are so many different ways you can pull off design, and more decor doesn’t necessarily mean better. I like to bring in natural elements such as wreaths or plants to really cozy up a space,” says Buckingham.

And you don't have to splurge on an expensive wreath. Buckingham recommends getting the whole family involved with some DIY holiday decorations to create a unique, memorable decoration that will last for years to come. Crafting a wreath, for example, is a great beginner project; stop by your local arts and crafts store to get all the supplies in one sweep, including floral wire, craft glue and wreath decor to get creative.

Aromas are also an important aspect to creating a homey, intimate mood. Pumpkin and spice are often common go-to aromas during the fall months, as earthier notes of fir, balsam and cedar dominate during the Christmas season. Looking for a new scent? Citrus paired with ginger or tobacco leaf mixed with amber are some great alternatives.

Heidi Ross, a professional home stager and owner of [Showhomes Memphis](#), says the biggest misconception is the belief that incorporating classic holiday colors is a must to creating a welcoming, festive atmosphere.

“Stick with the same color palette that's present in your home. Instead of placing orange pumpkins throughout your living spaces, take the pumpkin and paint it white. A white pumpkin still conveys the same effect, but in a more subdued and elegant manner,” says Ross. “My biggest advice is to keep your holiday decor simple and organic.”

Ross also recommends incorporating plants or flowers throughout a home to brighten it up during the sometimes dreary fall and winter months. Mums are a great autumnal flower that require little upkeep and can easily add in hues of orange, yellow and even white to a space.

Whichever elements you choose to embrace this season, the most important piece of advice is to take a minimalistic approach to holiday design. Lathering your space in decor and scents leads to clutter and creates an eyesore rather than a homey, relaxed retreat. Keep it simple and don't overthink it.