



Holiday Decorating

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Take A Can Of Gold Spray Paint.....

By Lisa M. Cunha of LC Interior Redesign

Those of you who know me well understand how much I LOVE to refurbish everything with a can of spray paint! It is so easy and economical to add some glitz to your decorations with just a can of spray paint. Choose silver for a cool ice palace look or gold for a traditional gleam scheme.

Here is a list of ordinary items that become beautiful Christmas decorations with a few thin coats of spray paint.

- * Pine cones. Attach a florist's wire and push into foam while painting. Pile into baskets or clear vases or attach a ribbon and real or fake greenery and use to decorate drawer and door knobs all around the house.
- * Dried flowers that are past their best come alive again with a quick spray. Split up inexpensive silk flowers, like a bunch of poinsettias and use with the gold dried flowers. and a few cones for a pretty Christmas display.
- * Ivy, whole strands to weave through decorations, wrap napkins or trail from displays, or single leaves to decorate wrapped presents or hand made cards.
- * Terracotta pots. Rub gently with sandpaper before spraying; add sand to the bottom and use as candle holders.
- * Spray small branches or large twigs before winding tiny white lights through them to light up a dull corner.
- * Make small bundles of twigs 3-4" long. Spray, leave to dry, then tie on to trees or swags with a pretty ribbon.
- * Dig out those shells you've been wondering what to do with. Gleaming with gold they will look great on your holiday table or make an unexpected seasonal accent in the bathroom.
- * Large seed pods look superb sprayed gold or silver. Use them in floral displays to add drama.
- * Baubles and tree decorations that no longer match your scheme become useful again with a couple of light coats of gold or silver paint.
- * Baskets of any type look wonderful for Christmas fruit and floral displays when dressed up in their Christmas gold and decorated with a ribbon. To avoid the basket weave getting clogged up remember that two or three thin coats works much better than one thick one.
- * Spray large flat pebbles or chunky stones to catch the light sitting among your candles Spraying the outside of baby food or other small jars, makes an ideal home or votive candles to light your path or porch when visitors arrive.
- * Napkin rings that no longer match your table decor are easily transformed with a swish or two of your spray can. Add a coat of clear varnish for a longer lasting finish.
- * A set of mismatched photograph frames make a lovely display once sprayed, or an extra gift.
- * Old artificial wreaths or tabletop trees can become beautiful again in minutes. Keep the spray very light for these, building up several coats to get the look you want or just swooshing over the tips.





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More Easy Decorating Ideas.....

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- * Take down your pictures and wrap them like a gift, then hang them back on the wall for great holiday cheer! You don't have to do this all around the house, how about just in the entry, or maybe the dining room?
- * Tie greens or ornaments to the chandelier with a little Christmas ribbon, just make sure they don't hang low enough for any candles on the table to catch them on fire.
- * Decorating for the holidays isn't limited to things you can see. Christmas is a time of wonderful smells and memory-evoking aromas. To fill your home with a wonderful scent, make this easy simmering potpourri: Combine orange peel, cinnamon, and whole cloves in a small pan, half-filled with water. Simmer on low heat, refilling water as needed. One pan of fresh potpourri will last an entire day, perhaps two, but should be made fresh each day if possible.
- * Toys are a wonderful addition to your seasonal decorations. Displayed on shelves, mantels, on beds, around the tree, on or near the television, or in groupings in corners in hallways, or wherever you would like. Dolls, teddy bears, trains, rocking horses, antique toys, wooden blocks (neatly arranged), drums, horns etc. can all fill even the grumpiest heart with thoughts of childhood and of dreams come true.
- * Ribbons, ribbons everywhere. Little touches of ribbon make all the difference in the overall effect, and to individual displays. Use red, green, white, or holiday print ribbon to decorate and embellish lamps, chairs, pictures, mirrors, tied around throw pillows and even on the branches of your tree.
- * Do not forget the bathrooms in your home. Put out Christmas hand towels, red or green bathmats/throw rugs, Christmas magazines, lights around the mirror, even a tiny tree or poinsettia. Try adding an extra festive touch by wrapping the lid of the toilet seat with a ribbon, and tying it with a big bow. I have done this and it is always commented on and enjoyed by guests.

The Candy Cane Vase

1. Hot glue approximately 25–50 one-ounce candy canes around the outside of an inexpensive cylinder (like a coffee can) or square-shaped container until the outside is completely covered. If you don't have a glue gun place a strong rubber band around the container, half way down from the top inserting candy canes into the rubber band until outside is covered.
2. Tie a wide satin ribbon around the decorated container. Secure with a dot of glue if needed.
3. Soak blocks of floral foam in water until they are completely saturated. Place the blocks in the container, trimming them to fit.
4. Starting at the center, insert stems of carnations, roses, or tulips, keeping the flower heads at the same level to create a tightly packed mound. Enjoy your festive centerpiece!

