

Seasonal Mantel Decorating



If you're someone (like me) who **loves** to change decorations with the seasons, then the fireplace mantel should be a top priority. The hearth naturally makes a focal point for any living room, drawing the eye of friends and family.

Trying to think of creative ways to decorate your mantel for the holidays?

- Fall—try gourds and pumpkins.
- Collect some artificial fruit and set them on a variety of lifts and levels using vases, compotes, glasses, or other decorative containers.
- Turn a walk in the woods into a gorgeous mantle decoration using pine cones, rocks, acorns, leaves and twigs. Set on a variety of lifts and levels using vases, compotes, and glasses.
- Fill small and large decorative glass containers with artificial fruit.
- Winter—add potted evergreens, pinecones, and sticks, some of which can be found in your backyard.
- Hang a wreath on top of a mirror, or prop a painting

in front of it.

- Tie a big bow in front of the mantel that stretches across.
- Display your favorite holiday collections on your mantel.
- Ideas to try—topiaries or other plants, vases with a few dramatic silk flowers; big, bold candlesticks and wide candles; dramatic sculptures; clocks; decorative urns.
- Bring in some shiny texture with brass or silver objects.

- Grouping family photographs of holidays past always adds charm to your mantel.
- Instead of a wreath, hang a snowy print above the fireplace.
- Clipping mittens and crocheted snowflakes to a scarf laid on the mantel adds even more seasonal interest.



How To Get That Decorator Look

The eye likes odd numbers, so keep groupings in threes, fives, and sevens—or odd numbers. Select related, similar accessories. The objects should not be of identical height, but, then again, they shouldn't vary too much in size. When you group your selected items for the fireplace mantel, don't line them up like soldiers. Think in terms of layering. Experiment with bringing one forward, one visually overlapping another, or tucking one a bit behind another. Instead of having them face straight into the room, experiment with having them face a bit toward the center of the fireplace mantle. Don't cram objects all the way to the left or right end of the fireplace mantel. Leave a bit of space after the last item so the end of the fireplace mantel serves as an edging for your grouping.



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