



Fun Decorating Tips To Brighten Your Home For The Holidays

by Jill Vegas
Jill Vegas LLC

Deck the halls this year with a glittery winter glow. Just about any home can be transformed in a week's time. Less in lots of cases, but it can be nice to have a week to make shopping more leisurely, and to widen your purchasing options. There are instant shopping solutions where you can simply buy "off the rack" items at the store. And then there are options that require a little more time, such as browsing antique stores or shopping online, which means waiting a few days for delivery. Here, I'll walk you through some common lighting challenges and offer speedy solutions—some magic-wand quick, others that will take up to a week to complete. The key is defining the functions of your space, and then making sure that the lighting works to support those functions. You can quickly upgrade your home's appeal for holidays with light.

Challenge: Dining Room Feels Gloom and Doom

Solution: Turn Up the Light

Abundant light in the dining room is critical. If the dining room is dreary, it sets a negative tone and will definitely kill the festive mood. Begin with replacing the ceiling fixture if it's old or in bad condition (or at least clean away the cobwebs and replace a weak bulb so it shines bright). The perfect light fixture is on a dimmer and creates a warm and inviting vibe. If you like the fixture you already have, make sure it's sparkly clean and the bulb casts a soft cheerful glow.

One client of mine told me she bought her apartment because she loved the light and flow. It was hard to see what she meant, however, because she had installed a dingy purple bulb into a stained glass light fixture above her dining room table, giving the effect of a mortuary. At my suggestion, she replaced both the bulb and the tired fixture with a new crystal pendant light. The result? The sparkly light created a welcoming and cozy vibe.



One great thing that lights can do is define distinct spaces in a room—you can have a reading nook, a conversation spot, or other areas you want to carve out—all without putting up walls. In this photo the ceiling fixture is on a dimmer, which is perfect for creating atmosphere. Candles in hurricanes will enhance any dinner party.

Challenge: Living Room is Blah

Solution: Define How You Want to Use the Space

A living room is the gathering place for many families. To make the most of it, the lighting should work to enhance the time you spend there, especially during the holidays. Do you want to play games, gather with the family for conversation, spend quiet time reading? I visited one family who had just moved into a modern home after many years living in a traditional one. They'd purchased halogen floor lamps for the living room, but those only served to cast harsh light in the corners, and the room didn't feel comfortable. Since they wanted the room to be a cozy gathering spot, we decided to get rid of those lights and take a look at what else they had in their collection. They already owned a charming, arching floor lamp that wasn't being used. We placed that in the center of the room and the effect was instant: Warm and Inviting.



Lights can be used to define distinct spaces in a room. In this photo we placed a table lamp to create the perfect place to read or play a game. You need ambient light, which is soft and makes everyone look good. But task lighting is important too. By bringing light for different purposes to different places in the room, you can create a special place for that function.

Jill Vegas
Jill Vegas LLC
Founded in 2004
Tel: 212-627-9402
jill@jillvegas.com
www.jillvegas.com