

Decorating With Seashells



Seashells are an instant Summer decorating item. Starfish and sand dollars are close behind, but do tend to break more easily. So how can we use shells to decorate?

If you live semi-close to a beach, you already have a great supply of seashells. If you don't live close, I'm sure that relatives or friends at the beach would be happy to bring or send you some of the shells. Or (~gasp~) you could even buy shell assortments from stores.

Every now and then on the beach, you will find a fully intact shell abandoned by its last inhabitant. My favorite shells, though, are the interesting broken pieces. These frequently show glimpses of beautiful inside coloring or architecture that would have been missed if the shell were not broken. I have picked up small pails of these shells at times when walking the beach after the tide starts going out.

A simple method of decorating is to dump a group of the shells into a small basket or a small glass container. I have used commemorative [tiny] wine glasses, lonely cordial glasses found at garage sales, and small desert dishes and saucers. Once I place the shells into the container, I might fiddle with the shells just a little to better show a fun inside color or to highlight a neat "architectural" feature in a shell.

If you have candles in the house, spread some seashells around the base of the candles to give it a more "from the sea" feeling. And if you have a large glass platter or glass candle plate, place candles as desired on platter. (Using candles of different heights provides a more relaxed feeling.) Fill in the rest of the platter area with various seashells. When deciding how high to stack the shells, keep safety in mind and do not get too close to a flame. Also keep in mind how far down the candles will burn – you want to keep the height of the shell decoration below that point.

For the dinner table, set candle tapers or votives down the center of the table. Loosely strewn seashells around the candles (can twine among the candles, or just go in rows down the outside of the candles, etc) make a really neat centerpiece.

If you have decorative wax pillars that you don't really burn, consider softly melting the wax in a small area of the pillar candle and pushing a shell or shell fragment lightly into the wax to become a part of the candle's decoration. This is especially great if the candle's color is blue or an aqua green.

A blue cloth napkin set on point on a coffee table can be surrounded at the edges with shells to create a unique centerpiece. Or set several greenish/bluish cloth napkins with their diamond point sides touching. Set seashells in the center of each napkin or trace a portion of the outline (your choice) with the shells. Set it off even more by adding a small toy pail and shovel and maybe even a small pile of sand – if you don't have pets or people who will scatter the sand onto the floor. ~grin~

Whether you decide on just one little grouping of shells or scatter them throughout your home, they will help you enjoy the Summer season without a lot of cost.

About The Author

Marie Rice is the founder and editor of PartOfTheWhole.com - wellness for body, mind, and spirit. She enjoys helping others reach their goals. When she's not online, Marie's spending time with her family, gardening, doing crafts, or **most likely** – reading a book!

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