

Inexpensive Summer Decorating



Summer decorating can be lots of fun – and fairly inexpensive by using some items from around the house or in the yard or a park or from the beach.

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

If you live semi-close to a beach, you already have a great supply of seashells. Every now and then you will find a full 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 time when walking the beach after the tide starts going out.

See our [Decorating With Seashells](#) article for more seashell decoration tips.

The great outdoors – bring in braches with leaves still attached. Or cut some of the multitude of flowers or herbs that are growing and blooming at this time of year. Set them in vases, or lay the braches on a mantel or down the center of a table. If your vases are clear, consider adding colored pebbles or stones at the bottom. Blues and greens enhance the water effect and bring to mind the ocean.

Already have candles in your house? Set out some colored candles especially in green, blue, white, beige, tan or peach. Group several candles together to create a focal point – on a shelf, the dining table, a coffee table, or an end table. Place seashells around the base of candles to evoke images of the sea. And if the candles happen to be scented for the season, even better! ~Grin~

Pull out anything sea-related that you might have around the house – dolphins, fish, mermaids, lighthouses, ships, fishing nets, etc. It doesn't matter whether they are pictures, figurines, or dishes. Place in prominent locations.

Fresh fruit often brings to mind summer. Place bowls or platters of un-cut fruit in plain sight. Or bring out dishes that have summer fruits on them. Put out bowls of ripening tomatoes.

What color cloth napkins, table cloths, placemats, towels, washcloths, pillowcases and sheets do you have? I like to cover my coffee table with a folded table cloth or sheet at different times of the year. It provides a solid backdrop that I can then dress up for whichever holiday or season I'm working with. (Not to mention that the tablecloth also covers the sides of the coffee table, so I don't see all that clutter stashed on the bottom shelf. ~LOL~) Sheets can be used much the same way as table cloths. Place your decorations on top of the table cloth or sheet.

Cloth napkins can be used individually – or used as a group and overlapped or placed side by side to create focus for other items that you set out. Actually, alternating colors of cloth

napkins can be the decoration themselves! Placemats, towels, washcloths, and pillowcases can be used in much the same way as the cloth napkins. Place your decoration on top.

Whether you decide on just one little grouping or end up decorating your entire house in the spirit of summer, use your favorite colors for the season and enjoy the season change 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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