



Ideas

For Holiday Staging

By: Marcyne Touchton

The idea behind home staging is simple:

merchandise the property so it appeals to the greatest amount of people, using what you already have. A great stager can recycle an old lamp or sofa and make it look spectacular, just by changing its surrounding or by adding a few touches to give it a whole new look.

This same concept applies to holiday staging! Instead of recommending you buy exotic, (and expensive) things or suggesting you grab a chainsaw (don't worry, I won't be pulling a Martha Stewart on you!), I am going to suggest a few easy things you can do using what you already have to create a beautiful holiday table.

First, bring out all of your neglected vases. Clean them until they sparkle and fill them with interesting things from around (and outside) the house. Fill the vases with holiday ornaments, candles and even food. My secret: fresh cranberries! They are inexpensive and have a beautiful red color. You can also cut some holly for the table. A clear vase filled with water and floating magnolia flowers is

especially stunning! You get the idea—the options are limitless!

For uniformity, I like using same-shaped vases in sets of three. You can find inexpensive ones anywhere from local craft shops to Walmart. I like having these everyday vases handy and in different sizes for many uses—they are so functional and easy to re-purpose. Staging them at varying heights makes for a wonderful effect.

Adding live greenery enhances any window, door frame, or table setting and it will look stunning. My latest favorite item is battery-operated light garland, which provides a lot of flexibility since it doesn't require an electrical outlet. You can really add drama by including it in the vases (I also use netting, which softens the glow) or put it under tulle for a centerpiece.

When entertaining, reuse the vases, only this time to give your serving dishes some height and dimension. Turn the vases upside down and cut some under-rug mats (the rubbery thing that goes under your area rugs) for between the

vase and the dish so you don't have to worry about things slipping and sliding.

Isn't that beautifully staged? It doesn't matter whether you are staging to sell, staging to redesign, or staging for the holidays, it's all around you. Have fun, be creative, and have a wonderful holiday! 🎄



Marcyne Touchton is the founder and principal stager for Domaine Staging. She is one of only 140 accredited staging professional masters (ASPM®) in North America and is a featured speaker before many business and industry organizations, real estate offices, and community groups. 75 percent of her stagings result in home sales in 15 days or less. Check out the resources & tips on their website at www.domainestaging.com.

