

Decorating A Home Without Creating Debt

Sandra Walker-Mastin, Reprinted with permission from MOMSense Magazine – Sept/Oct 2007

Re-purposing things you already have can look great and save you a bundle.

Take a look at things you have in your home. Whether you have furniture, glass, textiles or doors, re-purposing them for another use breathes fresh life into your home. Here are some of the reinventions in my home.

Remember those crystal bowls you received for wedding gifts? Plant flowers in them. Put potpourri in them. Put your fruit in them on your counter. Use them in the bathroom to hold soaps. Roll up nice towels in them and set the bowl on the back of the toilet.

Do you have some outdated throw cushions? Check the local dollar store and pick up some pretty cloth napkins. Sew two together to form a pillow cover. Often the cloth napkin is the perfect size. I've also used cloth placemats.

Do you have ugly coloured candlesticks you can't part with because Aunt Martha gave them to you? Acrylic paint does wonders.

Panel curtains make a great tablecloth.

Look for 60" wide fabric found in fabric store clearance bin and make a throw for a sofa. If you can't sew, fabric glue works great.

Take an old denim or patterned shirt that has shrunk and use the fabric to make cushion covers. Denim looks great in a child's room.



Use a tablecloth to swag across the top of a window for a swag curtain.

Recycle old frames for your child's artwork.

Heavy round candles make great bookends.

An old lamp is revised with a new shade and spray paint.

Display a favourite quilt on a wall to add texture and warmth to a room.

Successful decorating without breaking the bank will give you a great feeling. There's satisfaction in having a story to tell when someone compliments you on your gorgeous newly covered throw cushions.

Seek and You Will Find

Always shop with a list of items you'd like for your home. A bargain may show up where you least expect it. Check out the following:

- Your garage or crawl space.
- Newspaper classifieds.
- Yard sales.
- "As is" and "clearance sections".
- Secondhand thrift shops.
- Fabric stores (Look for rolls of clearance fabric, be patient, the fabric you saw full price may end up there.)