

Spring updates to spruce up your home

By Irene Woodworth

Spring has arrived. Official day: March 20. It was a colder winter than usual in Boise this year, and I am looking forward to some warmer weather. Aren't you? It does not take long to do some spring seasonal decorating in your home to put you in a more festive mood for Easter and the change of seasons. I will share some simple and easy steps in achieving a captivating color palette that will lift anyone's mood.

Starting point: Whether you like an organic natural-looking style, whimsical, contemporary or traditional décor, there is something that will work for you. First, I usually go through some of my seasonal stored décor and check it out. I may find a sale item I purchased the previous year that will be fun to use. If I need something else, I go to my local thrift store. There are plenty of simple fun décor items at a fraction of the cost of big box stores. Sometimes you will find dollar bins at your local craft store to pique your interest. Of course, the Dollar Tree will have some fun items that will add that little something to spur your imagination and creativity.

Tips for Springtime Decorating

1. Start with your entry that greets your family and visitors alike. Use some springtime décor by hanging a wreath on your front door, a potted plant near your entry or some artificial greenery with a bunny or two next to it. How about using an umbrella with some spring flowers and ribbon as an unexpected wreath on your front door? Do not forget to change out your floor mat to signify this new season.

2. Next, think about creating a spring tablescape on your dining or kitchen table or both. Some color schemes can include the softer pastel color combinations of robin's egg blue with cream or white, navy or purple accented with yellows. Or you may choose the vibrant color tones of red, yellow, pink, or blue teal. Even though we may not have fresh flowers blooming yet, such as tulips, daffodils or crocus, they can always be purchased at the grocery store to cheer up any room.

3. Think about using interesting containers. You can use various white ceramic pitchers and fill them up with some springtime flowers. I like to use one color of flowers or shrubs and make a statement. Or if you prefer the rustic farmhouse look, you can use some simple mason jars and line them up in the center of the table with other fresh flowers to match your décor. An old metal watering can adds a little reminder of yesterday.

4. Use your favorite collections. Perhaps you have a collection of various types of rabbits, chicks, eggs, birds or crosses. You can create a fun little Easter basket with grass and use some of those collectibles that add that special springtime look. I have a collection of some fabric bunny rabbits that are just charming, and I never get tired of them since they put a smile on me and my guests



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alike. I try to include them in various key places that are often noticed by my guests.

5. Choose some special locations. Your fireplace mantle, coffee tables, sofa tables or unique bookshelves can also be another feature for your spring décor. It is fun to put an element of surprise in creating these small vignettes to signify this seasonal change.

6. Accent pillows can really add some charm on your sofa. I have seen some with words, spring colors, or a bunny or two imprinted on them. They will put a smile on your face!

7. Stagger the height as you decorate. It is also a great idea to use either raised cake plates you have either purchased or made from simple dollar store items to display your décor. Books or gift boxes work well, too. This will create more interest for viewing.

8. How about decorating your guest bathroom? You can change out your towels and décor to signify this newer season. You can even change out your shower curtain if possible to match the lighter seasonal time.

9. Special rooms: Now that winter is gone I usually change out my bedding in my master bedroom to a softer, lighter décor to lighten the mood from the darker winter bedding. It puts me in a good mood when I see this every day. Do not forget about your guest bedroom, especially if you will be entertaining guests. A simple Easter basket will do wonders for your guests when they visit.

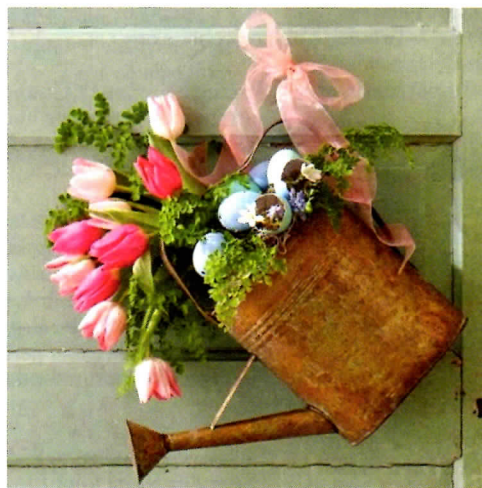
10. Do not forget to do something fun in your patio or backyard that signifies warmer weather. Just uncovering some of your patio furniture does wonders for your morale. Even though there still may be some rain showers, it is very inviting to have some occasional outdoor dining.

11. If some of your décor has faded through the seasons, just buy a can of spray paint in your favorite color to update a metal can or pot. Just a little pop of color goes a long way.

12. I also like to find and purchase some fun placemats or a table runner for indoors and outdoors. There are some seasonal water-repellent fabrics that work well for your outdoor entertaining. It is amazing what you can find to match your mood and to add to your springtime enjoyment.

I am going to do some indoor herb gardening this year. Hopefully, I will keep those herbs alive. I usually do not have a green thumb, but I am going to try it this year in my nook near my outside window. Fresh herbs have such a vibrant and wonderful scent that makes you eager to use those wonderful-smelling herbs to make a great meal for all. Fresh greenery always is a symbol of growth and a new season for us to anticipate.

You can do a little or a lot to welcome this new season. Whatever you do, do something that brings you some creativity, color and joy in your little or big house. It will make a difference for your family and visitors alike. Happy spring to all! ●



There are some beautiful ways to decorate the interior and exterior of your home for very little money. The rustic watering can shown here now has a fresh spring look with just the addition of flowers, eggs, greenery, and ribbon. (Photo from Homebnc.com)

Irene Woodworth is known as "Idaho's Color Lady" and is founder and CEO of Redesign Boise. She is a national redesign award winner, motivational speaker, certified redesigner and color consultant, and instructor on redesign and color. She has a degree in