

Holiday Hints

Holiday Decorating Tips

(NAPSA)—If you spot a pair of black boots and a Santa hat on your porch, don't assume the big guy swung by for a pit stop. Someone in your house may have just applied one of the more creative tips—complete with draping the gear with strings of snowflake lights—for adding instant holiday atmosphere.

If Santa's not your guy, something as simple as filling a breeze-way or entranceway with piles of colorfully wrapped gifts (with the "gifts" being empty boxes) can be a warm way to greet holiday guests, according to the experts at Party City. Or you can fill festive serving bowls with colorful ornaments for an easy and inexpensive holiday centerpiece.

Whatever decorating route you take, there are a number of ways to strike a festive holiday mood in your home, without blowing your gift money to do it. Try these additional Party City ideas:

- Candy canes aren't just yummy—they can make deliciously good decorations, too. Fill holiday tins and baskets with bundles of canes, wrapped in festive holiday ribbon. Then add red and green tissue paper to fill empty space.

- Hang a string of festive holiday lights across windows and door frames. Let any extra lights hang down on either side of the window or door to add some extra sparkle.



Getting your home ready for the holidays adds to everyone's enjoyment.

- Pick up some holiday cards with images of winter wonderlands or seasonal snowmen and hang them in inexpensive picture frames.

- Decorate a coffee table with a glittery arrangement of holiday candles. Whether you light them or just display them, they'll brighten up the house.

- If you're decorating for a party, purchase several cookie cutters in holiday shapes. Using red or green ribbon, tie your favorite cookie recipe to each cutter. Use them to decorate guests' place settings. You can also fill a basket with holiday coloring books and stocking stuffers for tiny tots who might visit during the season.

For more tips, visit the Web site www.partycity.com.