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HOMEOWNER'S UPDATE

Illuminate Your Holidays With Brilliant Decor

Holiday magic is found in light that scatters, sparkles and reflects. Increase the impact of light in your space with these five fun materials.

GLASS

Crystal prisms dance sunlight around the room. Mercury glass amplifies a candle's flicker. For a festive touch, place natural elements, small decorations or candy inside glass cake stands, hurricane vases or decorative jars.

Easy DIY: Pour Epsom salt into an apothecary jar. Add small plastic toys, like trees and animals, to create mini winter wonderlands.

MIRRORS

Mirrors extend light in any room. Try placing a decorative mirrored tray on an ottoman, or look for vases and lamps with reflective properties.

Easy DIY: Set shiny ornaments on a mirrored tray with natural branches for an eye-catching contrast.

METAL

Silver, gold, brass, aluminum, copper — each metal reflects light differently. Metallic garland, silver platters, brass animals, and gold charger plates all have their own unique reflective properties.

Easy DIY: Punch decorative holes in metallic cardstock. Create a cone shape, staple or tape to secure, and place LED tea lights underneath. The cones emit light from within and also reflect light on the outside.

GLITTER

Glitter is the new black. It ranges anywhere from ultra-fine to shredded flakes and can be metallic, holographic or iridescent. Glitter (and some glue) can add new life to older holiday decorations.

Easy DIY: Make a glittery wreath for a sparkly first impression at

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Here Comes the Winter Sun

The ABCs of Clean: Often-Overlooked Areas in Your Home

How To Cut Down on Food Waste

Broccoli Cheddar Twice-Baked Potatoes

Print this issue.



your front door.

FABRIC

Have fun with metallic napkins and placemats. Add a sequin runner to your dining table. Install a string of curtain lights behind sheer curtains.

Easy DIY: Transform your throw pillows with seasonal pillow shams made with shimmering fabric. No-sew tape makes this an easy beginner project.

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Here Comes the Winter Sun

In contrast to the blazing sun of summer, winter sunlight pales in comparison. Give that solar power a boost by incorporating these bright ideas to bring more light into your home.

Skip screens. Carefully remove your window screens and store them in a dry, secure space until spring. Screenless windows allow more light and can help reduce heating costs by warming your house via sunlight.

Add mirrors. Reflect light and help make darker spaces look brighter with mirrors. Consider a gallery wall of mirrors, or install a convex “fish-eye” mirror that relays more light than a flat one.

Get cleaning. Dirty windows and mirrors can block sunlight. Maintain a window-cleaning routine to allow as much light as possible into your home.

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The ABCs of Clean: Often-Overlooked Areas in Your Home

Household dust and soil can build up in the most ordinary and easily forgotten places. Shoes track dirt into your closet, spiderwebs creep onto the undersides of furniture, and scuffs and fingerprints turn walls and light switches into grubby grime zones. Grab your microfiber cloths, melamine foam sponges, cleaning wipes, and dusters, then get ready to tackle often-missed areas of your home with this clever ABC guide.

- A** Air Vent Covers
- B** Baseboards
- C** Closet Floor
- D** Dishwasher
- E** Electronics
- F** Fan Blades
- G** Garage Door Button
- H** Houseplants
- I** Icemaker
- J** Jewelry Box
- K** Knobs
- L** Light Fixtures and Switches
- M** Microwave Top
- N** Nightstand
- O** Oven Door
- P** Picture Frames
- Q** Quilts
- R** Refrigerator Top
- S** Shower Curtain
- T** Toothbrush Holder
- U** Underside of Furniture
- V** Vacuums (Yes, clean your vacuums!)
- W** Walls
- X** Xylophone (and other toys)
- Y** Yoga Mat
- Z** (Huzzah — you're done!)

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How To Cut Down on Food Waste

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, up to 40% of America's food ends up in the trash. The majority of that waste doesn't come from restaurants or grocery stores, but from individual consumers. Consider these simple steps to reduce the amount of food you throw away.

- Plan weekly meals and shop from a list so there's little excess food on hand.
- To avoid overbuying, take inventory of your refrigerator, freezer and pantry before you shop.
- Use leftovers for lunches the next day or for another dinner later in the week.
- Freeze what you don't plan to use within three days.
- Try composting — it reduces waste and provides nutrients for the garden.

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Broccoli Cheddar Twice-Baked Potatoes

¼ cup buttermilk
1½ cups cooked broccoli, chopped
1½ cups shredded White Cheddar cheese
½ tsp. *each* salt, pepper, onion powder, garlic powder, dried onion flakes, dill, and paprika

Directions

Preheat oven to 400° F. Place potatoes in a baking dish and bake for 1 hour. Set aside to cool, and line a baking pan with parchment paper.

When potatoes are cooled, slice each in half lengthwise. Keeping skins intact, scoop out pulp and place into a large bowl. Rub outsides of potato skins with oil and place on prepared baking pan. Add butter to pulp and mash until fairly smooth. Mix in remaining ingredients, then divide the filling evenly among potato skins. Bake for 20-25 minutes.



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