

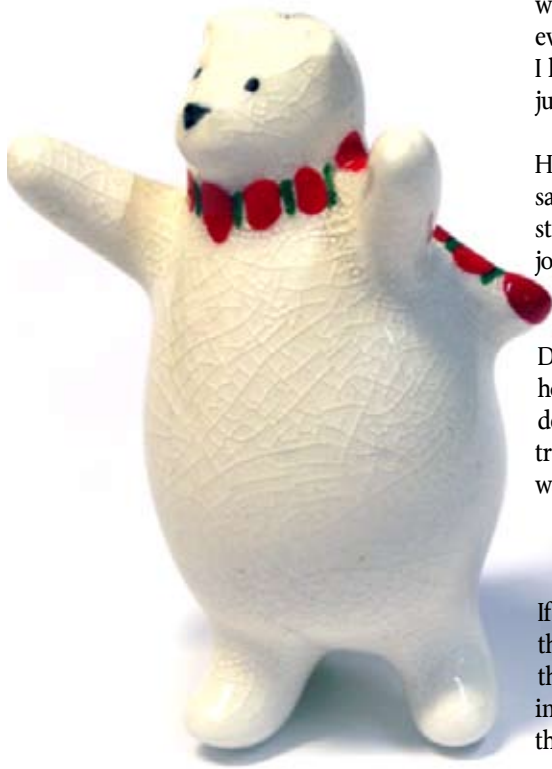


# DECORATING *for* *The Holidays*

by Dana J. Smithers

**A**t one time the Holiday Season started in December. Stores put their decorations up usually after the American Thanksgiving and we all got excited and enthused about the upcoming season. Times have changed! Decorations show up in the stores as early as October now and what used to be sacred seems so commercial now. And, we often feel tired and overwhelmed by the time the festive days actually arrive!





I want to invite you back to the times when we took the time to enjoy the holiday, whatever it is you are celebrating. Over the years I have found one of the ways to do this is by just keeping my decorating simple.

Here are some TIPS that I think will help save you some time, money and enjoy and still be surrounded by decorations that bring joy to the season:

Decide on a decorating 'theme' for this holiday i.e. fruit, flowers, stars, reindeer, or the traditional Santa Claus; introduce your theme in your entranceway and carry it throughout your home

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If you have decorations from the year before that you still want to use them select just the best ones and recycle the old ones - this includes all the keepsake ones from family that are really special for you

Select a colour scheme that goes with your existing décor and one that you love - if you have never done all silver think about it; how about the new chocolate brown and aqua decorations - why not!

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Like all decorating, you want to establish a focal point for your decorations - one thing that stands out more than the others

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Keep the decorating simple but group and layer your decorating so it will have more impact

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Keep the boxes for your decorations so it is easy to pack things away for next year. Happy Holidays and please, take some time for your self to relax and enjoy the season. You definitely deserve it. Y

Dana J. Smithers is a professional interior decorator, redesigner and home stager. As the owner of Sun On My Back Redesigns she operates a successful business and also teaches Redesign & Home Staging with the national Canadian Redesigners Association - CRDA. Stay tuned for her new ebook Creating Beauty & Harmony in Your Home and her new book Handbook for Home Staging coming in 2008. To receive your monthly tips from Sun On My Back Redesigns sign up for our newsletter at [www.sunonmybackredesigns.com](http://www.sunonmybackredesigns.com).

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