

southern exposure

+ HOLI-DIYS

Another holiday season has arrived and it's time to break out the decorations and start planning your holiday house parties. We know, it sounds exhausting and expensive, but skip the stress this holiday season with these four easy DIY hacks that will transform your home into a winter wonderland that meets your time and financial budget.



1. Skip the bartender. "If you are going to be serving alcohol at your party, have three special cocktails and present the ingredients on decorative paper in front of a DIY bar," says Stacy McGuigan of Everyday Celebrations in Sewell. "And of course, you would want a fun punch for the kids."

2. Decorate With What You've Got. "Chairs are really easy to decorate," says Absolute Living Today in Swedesboro's interior decorator Teresa Tocco-Davenport. "You can wrap the back in festive fabrics or tie a scarf around them. You can also reuse an old Christmas sweater and make it into a pillow for a unique look."



3. Embrace the Potluck. "Create a set menu first," says McGuigan, who explains that it's easy to overwhelm yourself with day-of party projects. "Ask each of your guests to bring an item that you plan. This way, there are no crossovers and you won't have to worry about making too much at once."

4. Get In Touch With Nature. According to Tocco-Davenport, some of the best décor comes at no charge from your own backyard. "You can do a lot of fun things with mason jars and candle holders," she says. "You can fill a mason jar with acorns or holly berries and apply drizzles of fake snow to the outside of them, or wrap your candle holder with holly leaves." -Ashley Ivers