

## Holiday Hints & Helps: Decorating on a Dime

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### Crafty Creations

Three words: Make it yourself. For just a fraction of what it costs to buy decorations in the store, you can make them yourself and they will be just as beautiful (if not more so).

Here's one idea that is sure to transform your home into a winter wonderland:



### Shimmering Shelvesicles

#### Materials:

White glitter felt, paper, glue stick

#### Directions:

1. Cut white glitter felt into a strip 6 1/2 inches wide and as long as your shelf. On the non-glittery side, draw long, pointy icicles with a pencil and cut them out, leaving a border of 1 1/2 inches on the top edge.
2. Cut a strip of white paper about 4 inches wide and as long as your shelf (tape multiple pieces of paper

### Less is More

*Rule Number One:* Your home doesn't have to resemble the holiday section at your local department store to make it festive. You can get into the holiday spirit with family, music, and a few tasteful decorations. Just because that singing Rudolph or dancing Santa is on sale doesn't mean you have to buy it (especially if you already have one!).



**The best time to buy holiday decorations is after the holidays are over, when stores have the deepest discounts. Decorations tend to be marked 50-75% off.**

### What's Old Is New Again

Tired of the same decorations year after year? Use them in a new way! Sure, it can get monotonous to see the same wreath in the same place every single year or to see the same bulbs hanging from the same branches of the same tree over and over again. But by taking those "boring" decorations and using them in an innovative way, they can become new again.

For example, instead of hanging that wreath on the door this year, try using it as a centerpiece for your holiday table. Place it face up on the center of the table with a large candle in the center. Instead of using the bulbs on the tree, place some in a crystal or glass bowl and display for a festive splash of color. Bulbs can also be used to decorate the holiday table by placing a few along the length of the table to add colorful accents. Use



those old strands of garland to decorate your banisters. Old strings of twinkle lights can be wound inside a crystal vase for a unique and festive holiday light fixture.

The list goes on and on. With a little imagination, what's old can be new again. For more great ideas like these, please contact the Extension office at (941) 722-4524.

together as needed). Fold over 1/2-inch of one edge, then join the felt piece and the folded paper with a glue stick.

3. Clear a shelf, lay the paper on it so that the icicles hang down, and replace the objects to keep the shelvesicles in place.