

Decorating for the Thanksgiving Gathering

BY CHRIS FRANCIN
VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE



Capture the feeling of Thanksgiving as you sprinkle the holiday spirit throughout the home starting with the porch and front door...

Holiday Comfort

Swing into the holiday on your porch or lanai. This is the time to entertain and enjoy the cooler weather. A beautifully outfitted bench swing or small couch just adds to the fun and frivolity of the event.

Design Tips:

Switch out summer cushions and pillows on the bench swing or cozy outdoor couch with fall-themed ones to instantly set the mood for a festive celebration.

Comfort Tips:

Whether you are outfitting your bench swing or any other outdoor furniture with cushions, quality products make all the difference. Selecting the correct sized cushion for the unit will also contribute to making the seating as comfortable as possible. Make sure to measure your furniture so that you are guaranteed the cushions will fit just right!



Welcome!

Perfect for signaling that there is a celebration happening inside, give your guests a warm and seasonal welcome with a beautifully decorated door.

Design Tips:

When purchasing or creating your own wreath, consider the door color. Choose décor items that work well with the door. Placing a focal point in the center of the wreath adds to the flair of the wreath and gives it added dimension.

Hanging Tips:

To avoid damage to the door, nails or screws should not be used.

If you have a metal door try using a magnetic wreath hanger designed especially for these types of doors.

When hanging a wreath on a glass door, suction cups work great!

Try traditional over-the-door hangers; they can be used on most doors.

Use door-safe self adhesive hooks. • Hang the wreath from the door knocker.

Relaxing Ambiance

Nothing is more appealing than a well-lit and beautifully appointed living area where guests can gather or for the busy host to just relax before the event.

Design Tips:

To add a charming ambiance to your living area during the Thanksgiving month, change up your pillows with some that display beautiful harvest colors, use candles with hues of the season and add silk flowers to the decor. Drape a comfy throw on the couch for the finishing touch.

Candle Selection Tips:

There are many scents to choose from that add that extra special touch to a room. Holiday fragrances to look for are apple pie, pine, cinnamon, clove, vanilla, pumpkin spice, and very popular in Florida is the orange spice.



Heart of the Home

Along with the wonderful scent of pumpkin and spice that floats in the air from the kitchen, there are many ways to add a festive flair to this area, to make it a warm and celebratory place to gather.



Design Tips:

A string of lights positioned along a wall can add just that little bit of sparkle you might want in your kitchen area.

The color orange is associated with optimism and happiness and known as the color of autumn, so make sure to include a bit of this hue in the kitchen. A bowl of oranges, a vase of flowers, a pumpkin here and there, and between the food and all that beautiful color you are bound to please your family and guests!

Flower Selection Tips:

Pick flowers from the garden the day of the event and bring nature into your home. Or, use silk flowers that are always in style and of course, fresh as can be!

There are many discount stores where you can purchase silk flowers for reasonable prices. Make sure to select long and short stemmed flowers for your different vase sizes.

A Holiday Guest Bath

A spa-like atmosphere in the bath area is the perfect way to provide a relaxing ambiance to the space. Family and guests will appreciate the special touches you have implemented during the hectic holiday season.

Design Tips:

Dress up your guest bath with colorful towels, cinnamon sticks tied with a beautiful ribbon, and a harvest scented candle for a festive and pleasing touch in the bath area.

Towel Selection Tips:

It's all about your personal preference, but usually if you want a super soft absorbent towel, you will want to select towels that are 100% cotton with plush loops of yarn. If you prefer towels that dry quickly and are somewhat more durable, you will want to select a cotton-poly blend with short loops.

