

Seven Days to a More Beautiful Home



Written by [My Fruitful Home](#)

Welcome to Seven Days to a More Beautiful Home

Everyone wants to have a beautiful home, but sometimes that can be a big expense. I love decorating with things I already have around my home. I also love to use inexpensive things in new ways.

The first thing to do is come up with a budget for your decorating. Make a deal with yourself that you will not go beyond a set amount. You really can decorate on a budget. After coming up with a budget, go around your home room by room. Pick the room that needs the least changes. This will give you a sense of accomplishment from the beginning. You are going to be working on one room at a time. Once you have picked your room you need to clear the clutter. Get rid of old magazines and box up knickknacks you are not in love with anymore. Take a basket around the room and pick up stray items that don't belong. Now you need to start sweeping, cleaning and dusting. I know that doesn't sound very glamorous, but starting with a clean sparkling room will help set the tone. Make sure the windows are clean, the floors and furniture dusted or swept and floors cleaned.

See if you can enlist a friend to help you. Sometimes two pairs of eyes are better than one. Your friend can also help you get rid of some of the clutter since they won't be emotionally attached to it. You may want to give some of your unwanted things to them! One person's trash is another one's treasure. Maybe they can even help you move furniture!

We will be talking about color, texture, things from nature, and re-purposing and rearranging. We will also be learning how to use family pictures and wall art to enhance our homes. I can't wait to go on this journey with you.



Day Two: Color

Today we are going to be discussing color. Color can do so much for a home. It is actually quite simple to add color to a room for very little money. There is always paint if you have that in your budget, but I am going to share some smaller ways to achieve the same effect.

Take a look at your room and decide what the dominate color is. Are you happy with this color? If you are, think of colors that would complement it or give the room a pop of color. If you don't like the color, decide what color you would like to work with.

You can bring color into the room by changing or embellishing a lampshade. Plain lampshades aren't very expensive. You can add ribbon, buttons, feathers, stickers or positional vinyl coated shapes. Places like www.wallies.com carry a variety for a reasonable price. You can also use paint markers, fabric, paper or add flower rosettes with a little hot glue.

Pillows also can add a pop of color. Look around your house and gather up all your pillows. Maybe you would like to use them in different rooms. You could buy a pillow in a bold color or add things to your existing pillows. You can slip it into a pillowcase with a bold color and add a ribbon around it to keep it together.

If you want to add some color to your dining room or kitchen, a table cloth and/ or slipcovers are a perfect and inexpensive choice. You can go bold or pick one with a small print. Colorful placemats are another good choice. If you don't have a complete set of dishes you can mix and match. They don't all have to be the same color.

A large painting or canvas can be a colorful focal point. You can also frame pretty scrapbook paper or put a collage of pictures on a canvas, like a scrapbook page. You could even paint a canvas one color and display it in a prominent area. It's amazing how you can add color using budget friendly

items. Don't be afraid of color. Be creative and try different things. You can always change it. Have fun experimenting!



Day Three: Texture

Fabric is usually the first thing people think of when they think of texture. Using heavy fabrics for curtains or rugs is a good way to add texture because it takes up a large area. These are especially good in the fall and winter seasons. You can always switch them for lighter fabrics for spring and summer. Some other fabrics that add visual to a room are velvet, lace, and furry materials. You can add a velvet or corduroy pillow or add a trim of lace.

A cable-knit or satin throw is a quick and easy way to add warmth to a room. Just throw it over the back of a chair. In the bathroom throw rugs and towels are a good way to quickly add texture. Add some lace or ribbon trim to the bottom of towels. Don't forget to use plush, thick towels too. You could use a thick, nubby throw rug to keep feet nice and warm. If you are after looks rather than comfort you could use a sisal rug. This is best used in a room other than the bathroom. You could put it under a coffee table where there's not a lot of foot traffic for instance.

The bedroom is another room where it is easy to add texture. The comforter or bedspread is the first thing you see when entering the bedroom. It is the focal point of the room, so make it count. You can use a light airy cover or a thick and luxurious one. You can also use one with trim and a dust ruffle. Pillows are something every bedroom has. You can use this as another opportunity to spice up a room. Refer to the suggestions earlier in this post. You can also layer different textured throws at the end of the bed. Blinds are another large item usually found in this room. Woven or bamboo shades are a great choice.

Woven baskets are an easy and eye appealing way to add function to any room. You can store magazines, newspapers, kids toys, etc. Wood is another source that most people already have in their rooms. Chairs, coffee tables, and side tables are very often made of wood. If possible make sure the furniture is in the same wood tone. You can blend wood tones bringing in accessories. You can also add a room divider made out of old shutters for example or use free standing wooden shelves. There are many ways to use wood since it is so prevalent in most homes.



Blown glass and pottery is another example of bringing in accessories with eye appeal. Just one beautiful vase on a table or shelf can make a big statement. If you have a pottery piece big enough you can set it on the floor and fill it with a pretty flower display. Tomorrow we will be looking at nature. Nature goes hand in hand with texture. There are great things you can do with your rooms by bringing in easily accessible items from outside. We will be looking at that next.

Day Four: Nature

Did you know that there are many ways to bring nature into your home? The added bonus is it is usually free! The first thing people usually think of is flowers. I love cutting flowers from my wildflower garden. I also love zinnias and cosmos. They are fairly easy to grow. You can always buy flowers from inexpensive places like Aldis and Trader Joe's. I also like to use dried flowers in wreaths and arrangements when fresh flowers are scarce.

When spring and summer are over I like to decorate with branches, wheat, evergreens, cattails, and pussy willows, depending on the season. Most of them last from year to year which is convenient. I have a vase with cattails, pussy willows and dried flowers sitting on my mantle. During October and November I like to decorate with wheat, small pumpkins and gourds. Leaves are another thing I like to use, and they are free! You can press them and frame them or do leaf rubbings. You can also do something as simple as putting leaves in a shallow bowl. Try making a wreath with them using a straw or grapevine wreath as your base. Put your flower window boxes to good use in the fall and winter and fill them with leaves, pumpkins, and gourds. In the winter you could fill them with evergreens, pine cones, and red bulbs. Let your imagination go. There are no wrong ideas! If you have a big vase, cut down some branches off a colorful tree. Just make sure it's your own tree! You could also use bare branches in the winter.

In the spring and summer I like to decorate with wreaths containing spring or summer flowers, either dried or fresh. Dried flowers last longer though. I also like to decorate with fresh things I have around the house. I fill bowls with lemons, limes, and or apples and sit them on the kitchen counter. Hydrangeas are my favorite flower. I like displaying them either fresh or dried. They come in beautiful blues, pinks, and purples. If you don't grow them yourselves, ask a friend to give you a few. Plants are another great way to add nature to your surroundings. These can be used all year round. I like to use a large plant in the corner of a room. If you don't have a green thumb collect different sized cylinder vases and put a single hosta leaf or other green leaf in a little bit of water. It makes a stunning display. Moss is also a good option. Place some in a bowl with a few river rocks on top. If you have a dogwood or cherry blossom tree you can cut branches and put them in big glass vases.

When we go on vacation I like to collect shells, sand and sea glass. Sea glass comes in such pretty colors. I like to put seashells or sea glass in a bowl for display. I also like to use sand dollars, starfish and coral. A great way to decorate with sand is to get a glass jar, fill with sand and seashells. You can also slip in a picture of your vacation and it turns into a vacation memory jar. Make sure to label the jar with the date and place. Another thing you can do with jars is make a beautiful terrarium. It's like a mini garden! It's simple, yet special. I also like to use driftwood to put on my mantle, or make into a mobile along with sea glass and shells.



Day Five: Ten Ways to Use Pictures in Your Home

1. You can affix pictures to pretty plates to display them.
2. Canvases are a great way to show off one large picture or several smaller pictures. Websites such as Shutterfly and Snapfish sell canvases. You can display one large one or put smaller ones in a grid like fashion.
3. Print out some of your pictures in black and white for a different effect.

4. Collage frames are an easy, inexpensive way to arrange several pictures at once, and you only have to use one frame. Many stores such as TJ Maxx, Marshals, and Kohls sell different styles.
5. Make a scrapbook page and put it in a special scrapbook frame. These can be purchased at Joann Fabrics and Michaels. You could also clip it to a clipboard.
6. Spray paint small frames in one color. This will give them uniformity. Arrange them on a side table or bookshelf.
7. I love using picture wreaths made out of wire. You can switch the pictures depending upon what season or holiday it is. Insert Christmas pictures at Christmas time, summer pictures in the summer, etc.
8. I also love using picture ledges. It makes a great focal point. You can also change the pictures as often as you like without putting holes in the wall.
9. One new way I came across to display pictures is to put them in a clear, glass bottle. Put several bottles together in a grouping for a grand statement.
10. String a wire across a child's room or across a window and hang pictures by clips or clothes pins.

I hope these ideas have sparked your imagination. Don't let these suggestions limit you. Finding new ways to use pictures helps you feel connected to your family, and lets you share your family with others when they visit your home.





Day Six: Repurposing

You would be amazed at how many things you have around your house right now that you can use in a new way to bring beauty to your home. This may be a good time to invite a friend over to help you see things differently. It is actually fun to bring old or everyday items to new life.

One way to add dramatic results to a room is by rearranging the furniture. This is when a friend can come in handy. Do you want to move the couch away from the wall? Maybe you want to group some chairs together for a good place to have a conversation. See what works for you.

Side tables and coffee tables are things that could be used in your main living areas. The tables can also provide storage. Here are some things that can serve a double purpose:

- Dressers
- Benches
- Baskets
- Trunks
- Books

Dressers come in handy for lots of storage. You could use it in a dining room for storing placemats, tablecloths, and silver. You could also use it in an entryway to store winter items, keys, and sunglasses.

Benches can be used for a sofa or side table, depending on the size. If they open you have the added benefit of storage! Trunks are another option to use for a coffee table with storage. I also love baskets because they are so versatile. Did you know you can use a basket for a side table? If it has a lid just stack a few baskets on top of each other. If it doesn't have a lid you could put a large book, piece of glass or wood on top.

Bookshelves are another thing that you can create from other items. They can be used to house books of course, but also pictures, vases and other knickknacks. Here are some things that make great bookcases:

- Ladders
- Crates
- Benches

Ladders can be leaned against a wall to hold books and other items, even a small lamp. Benches of varying sizes can be stacked for a unique bookshelf. Some grocery stores will give you crates just for the asking. They can be spray painted and stacked or used as is. You can even use a combination of items. Stack a crate on top of a bench for added visual appeal.

Frames and canvases are another thing that can be repurposed inexpensively. Frame a pretty piece of scrapbook paper or decoupage it onto a canvas. Fabric can be used to stretch across a canvas and stapled to the back using a staple gun. Cards are something that people tend to save. Dig thorough your collection and find some pretty ones that can be displayed in a floating frame. This is a frame where you position the picture between two pieces of glass with no outside border. You could also frame pages from an old calendar.

Garden items are things that people usually don't think of as using in a home. There are many things that you probably already have in your garage like:

- Terracotta Pots
- Wire or Iron Garden Containers
- Birdbaths
- Gardening Tools

Terracotta pots are great for holding things in the bathroom like cotton swabs, cotton balls, etc. You can also use them in your kitchen for cooking utensils. Terracotta pots would also make nice candle holders. Wire or iron containers are great for storing towels in a bathroom, especially if it's the kind you can attach to the wall. It gives the room color and function. Do you have an old birdbath that is still in pretty good shape? Use it in a bathroom to store accessories, towels, etc. You could also top it with a piece of glass or a round picture frame. Small garden tools can be used as towel holders.

Do you need curtains or valences that don't cost a lot? Here are some things you could use.

- Cloth Napkins
- Hand Towels
- Tablecloths
- Cloth Shower Curtains
- A Wooden Shelf
- Scarves
- Handkerchiefs

You can take a tablecloth and loop the ends through the holes in drapery brackets, or simply fold the tablecloth over the drapery rod and use wide ribbons to pull ends loosely. You can also hem tea towels with fusible webbing. Hand towels hung like triangles make a pretty valence. You can use pins and a glue gun to hem them. Scarves are another good choice. They make beautiful, light, and airy window treatments. Stitch earring hooks to one edge to hang from a decorative nail in the window frame. Pretty handkerchiefs can be clipped onto a curtain rod. Wooden shelves are a simple way to add a functional valence. You can display pretty accessories on top.

As you can see there are many things that you may already have around your house that can be used in a different way. Once you find an item to re-purpose, the ideas will start flowing. Have fun with it!



Day Seven: Putting it All Together

We have been through many different ways to add warmth and beauty to your home without spending a lot of money. Here is a recap of the things we have learned.

We learned about coming up with a budget so you don't overspend. You can't enjoy your home if you are in debt. We also learned how important it is to start with a clean slate. Make sure you start with a clean room. If you have a friend to help you that makes things even more fun!

We learned about color and how that can add a certain feeling to a room or make things pop. Texture also helped us add warmth and interest to a room. We talked about many different materials to help us achieve this. Nature is something that can be easy to add to a room. It helps us stay connected to the outside world and gives us a feeling of calm. Next we learned about pictures pictures. Pictures help us relive memories and keep us close to our families. They can be displayed in small things such as a collection of picture frames or a bold statement using canvas. Re-purposing takes a little more work. Furniture may need to be moved. This is when a friend comes in handy. Many things that you already have around your house can serve another function. You just have to be creative!

I have enjoyed taking you room by room and seeing things with different eyes. Take a look at all you have accomplished, and enjoy your creations and hard work. I know your family will enjoy your efforts too. ENJOY!



Written by Tanya Fierro

www.thefruitfulhome.com

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