

Use the Seasons to Organize your Home

I love getting my fall decorations out of the attic and filling the house with the colors of autumn. Decorations are personal; most of mine remind me of a place I have been or a person I have loved. Organizing my décor into seasons (every three months) allows me to enjoy more of the things I treasure without getting tired of them. Here are some suggestions for seasonal organizing from my home to yours:



Seasonal organizing:

- Keep items in clear, plastic boxes with labels. I use smaller containers because we have to pull down the attic steps to get to our decorations and the boxes would be too heavy to carry.
- Take the time to decorate and enjoy the process instead of thinking of it as a chore.
- Take pictures of the decorations once they are in their place so it's easier to put them out next year. I used to keep the photos in the boxes with the décor; now I keep them on my phone in seasonal albums.
- If you do take actual pictures of your décor, this invites other family members to decorate without supervision (think husband or child).
- Use family antiques to decorate, e.g. old sleigh on porch or big vintage Christmas bulbs in a jar.
- If you have a small home, trade out some wall art each season. I keep larger art in my attic in a big bin standing upright so I can select the piece I want.
- Decorate with “art” your kids made in grade school: For Spring I display a Happy Vernal Equinox card my son made in 4th grade and for Fall I display a tissue paper pumpkin he made in kindergarten).
- I have four different bathroom shower curtains that I rotate for the seasons.
- Quilts are also a favorite of mine so I rotate these for the seasons and store the other three on a quilt rack in my bedroom.

Fall (September, October, November):

- I leave Halloween and Thanksgiving out all season (putting Halloween away when it's over is too fussy for me).
- Clean out all the planters outside and swap out dead plants for pumpkins and hardier winter plants.

Winter (December, January, February):

- Yes, we leave Christmas décor out for three months. It's my husband's favorite season and we have so many memories invested in our Christmas décor.
- My husband puts up his train yard and leaves it up for three months too.

Spring (March, April, May)

- Replace the prior year's family pictures with the new pictures I got in family Christmas cards and display the pictures again.

Summer (June, July, August)

- I use a lot of the spring decorations in summer months so since I don't have as many decorations for summer.
- I have a beachy frame that I put the newest beach picture in each year.
- We collect shells from our trips to the beach, so I add them to a big glass container with a lid (an idea from a client) to display each summer.

Finally, unclutter as you decorate so you can donate the things you no longer love and add new items you get from travels and friends. There's no rule that says how much to change for each season; do what works for you and enjoy your home more as the seasons change.

“Order is the shape upon which beauty depends.” Pearl S. Buck

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