

Country ACCENTS®

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7 WAYS TO DECORATE FOR SPRING

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Whether it's the first robin redbreast hobbling across your lawn, crocuses sprouting up from the earth, or the melting of the final bit of snow (and the resulting mud, as is the case where I live in northern New England!), everyone harbors a certain image or event in one's mind that means the end of winter and beginning of spring. After a cold season spent indoors, spring also means that many homeowners are ready to redecorate. Sprucing up your home for spring doesn't mean you have to make a huge investment in new furniture or other big changes. Small, simple touches can make a dramatic impact on the mood of any room. Look for items that remind you of the season and you'll have a spring in your step, and in your decor.



TOP LEFT: Adorable bunny figurines make charming springtime decorations. These porcelain eggs and rabbits from Seasons of Cannon Falls by Midwest feature a crackle finish.

ABOVE: Find a spot for excess bottles and soaps that clutter your bathroom to give your bath and sink space an instant facelift. This shower caddy from simplehuman hangs from the showerhead and features plenty of space to store shampoo and other necessities.

LEFT: Special racks can help clear out awkward-to-store items like hats and shoes. The CapRack24 from Perfect Curve hangs up to 24 baseball caps in an organized and stylish fashion. The CapRack24 can be hung from a closet rod, the ceiling or from a wall and is a great way to display your favorite hats and free up closet space.

BOTTOM LEFT: This print from Through the Country Door celebrates a mother's love with touching words.

BELOW: Flowering bulbs are the harbingers of spring in many areas. Greet them early with decorative items sporting images of flowers, like the tulips on this recycled tin wall art from Uncommon Goods.



1 CLEAR YOUR CLUTTER. 'Tis the season for spring cleaning and one of the most satisfying ways to achieve a sense of cleanup accomplishment is by getting rid of some overdue clutter. Find a display area for books, collectibles and other items that will add to the warmth and charm of your home and exude the ambiance you want to portray. For must-keep items that don't have a place out in the open, look for pretty display boxes that you keep stowed on a shelf or under a table, and clean, pack and stash others in a closet or other out-of-the-way storage area. Special racks, shelves and hooks can help you store awkwardly shaped items like hats and shoes. Even something as simple as finding a spot for excess bottles and soaps in the bathroom can give a facelift to that often clutter-filled room. Finally, load up a box with items you no longer need but can still be used and donate them to a worthy charity or sell them at a local thrift store. Household items like linens, towels and kitchen supplies and appliances are much needed by recent college grads out on their own for the first time. Call up a friend with a new college grad to see if they could use things you no longer want.

2 FOR THE BIRDS. Those of us who live in Northern climes begin to see the return of our feathered friends as they migrate during the months of spring. Celebrate their arrival by decorating with faux versions of your favorite songbirds. Colorful towels, table linens and porcelain sculptures add bright tones to the kitchen, dining room and other areas of the home. Dainty silver or pewter bird sculptures are an elegant touch for the bedroom or fireplace mantel.

3 TIPTOE THROUGH TULIPS. Many areas greet spring with a riot of color courtesy of flowering spring bulbs like crocuses, tulips and daffodils. If your bulbs are a little late to bloom — or if you just can't wait for those first petals to open — decorate your home with items sporting a floral motif. Look for wall art, bedding, dishware and more that feature colorful early spring flowers.

4 SWEETS AND TREATS. If spring had a flavor, it might well be the sugary sweetness of traditional Easter candy. Even if the Easter bunny doesn't leave a basket full of goodies on your doorstep, you can still enjoy a tempting treat, and as the holiday with some of the prettiest candy, the season's sweets make a great addition to your decor. If you don't want to tempt your sweet tooth, add some items that feature the soft pastel tones and bright spring hues of Easter candy instead.

5 MATERNAL MEMORIES. May holds the holiday for honoring the mothers in our lives. You can pay homage to Mother's Day in your decor too. Create a collage with photos and mementos of your own mother — it will make a special focal point hanging on the wall. Or you can have a favorite photograph of you and your mother together framed. Make two copies — one for you, and one for mom. There are also decorative items available for purchase, like touching poems about motherhood in decorative frames or done in pretty cross-stitch.

6 FLOWERS UNDERFOOT. A scattering of rose petals on the floor may be romantic, but not so practical. Capture the look without the mess with a pretty floral rug. Add just a hint of flowers to the floor with a small throw or decorative mat, or make more of an impact with a room-size area rug featuring an all-over floral pattern.

7 BOUNTIFUL BUNNIES. What says spring more than an adorable bunny rabbit? Both a result of Easter associations, and, if you live in an area that's home to wild rabbits, they seem to pop — or hop — up everywhere you turn once spring arrives. They may be a nuisance in the garden, but little bunny rabbit prints, figurines and other decorative items add a delightfully springtime quality to your decor.