

The Oregonian

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HOMES & GARDENS  
OF THE NORTHWEST

# WARM WELCOME

GIVE YOUR GUESTS  
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WITH THESE INVITING  
HOLIDAY IDEAS/6



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# WELCOME, PLEASE COME IN



## WARM UP YOUR HOME WITH THESE INVITING IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

| By Bridget A. Otto | THE OREGONIAN |

Summer — when we throw open doors and windows and let the warm weather breeze through our homes — is over. Now fall has cackled in — with its golden highlights and crimson colors — and we've shut those drafty doors and windows, lit a fire and embraced thoughts of wools and hats and boots and tights. Then we take a good look around the house.

No longer will white linens and bare floors do.

It's time to make the house a warm, welcoming retreat — we'll be indoors for some time.

"Think about inviting people in," says Portland-based interior designer Arlene Lord of Mosaik Design when asked about how to move a home into the season. "Think about the smell, the feel, the lighting."

She says making your home welcoming is about making people feel comfortable — and she's not just talking about furnishings. Lord says that if you have an obvious place to hang a coat, doff soggy shoes and tuck an umbrella, people will feel relaxed and wanted, and they'll settle in quickly.

"I want to open the door and have people feel comfortable and playful," Lord says.

So just in time for the holidays and guests, here are some ideas from **Maureen Bray of Room Solutions** to bring fall into your home. Turn the page for more.

**THE ENTRY** | Warm colors, compelling artwork and a place to perch and remove soggy boots make this entry — with its wet-friendly flooring — both inviting and functional. Off to the side are hooks for coats and places to set purses and shoes. Designer (and homeowner) Arlene Lord says that when guests know what to do with their things, they feel welcome and relaxed.



# WELCOME TO THE HOLIDAYS

## COLOR ●●●

*When it comes to fall color, the Northwest gives New England a run for its money. Embrace that and bring it on in.*

- Add throw pillows in fall colors to your cozy chair and sofas, plus a nubby-textured throw to curl up with (browns, rusty orange, golds, greens). Combine different textures and sizes for interest.
- Create a wreath out of grapevine and add artichoke leaves, lemon leaves, juniper, wheat or other dried grains, twigs,

feathers, nuts, pods, pine cones, acorns, bits of moss, dried or faux pomegranates, berries. These wreaths can go on your door, over a table in the entry or above the mantel.

- Don't overlook white – it can make a good contrasting

statement. Mix white column candles with white gourds and small white votives along a mantel.

## CONTAINERS ●●●

*Think outside the standard glass vase. Anything can hold a fall arrangement.*

- Check out your garage, potting shed or basement storage for unique containers like pails, buckets and wooden crates. Remember, anything can be spray-painted.
- A frame can also be considered a container. Gather and press those gorgeous maple leaves and place them in an inexpensive frame. Hang the "picture" by a colorful ribbon. (To see how, go to [ehow.com/how\\_4509754\\_frame-fall-leaves.html](http://ehow.com/how_4509754_frame-fall-leaves.html))
- Float tea lights in martini glasses.
- Group containers in threes for added impact.



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## CONTENT ●●●

*Sky's the limit. Cruise your yard, the farmers markets, your neighborhood.*

- Collect birch, corkscrew willow, manzanita, dogwood, mitsumata, you name it. And if you can't find anything colorful, spray-paint any old branches.
- Plunk a bundle of coral-bark maple twigs into a distressed metal watering can. It's amazing how good they'll look.
- Don't overlook pine cones, grasses, gourds, pumpkins, leaves and rocks.
- Conventional glass containers look great filled with color: leaves, acorns, cranberries, kumquats, dried pomegranates, dried wheat bundles, nuts, twigs. ●

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