

Homemade Ornaments A Treat For The Holidays



Add some homemade ornaments to your collection of store-bought treasures.

Once the perfect tree has been selected and placed in the home, the next task is to take out all of the ornaments collected over the years and hang them on the tree.

Part of what makes decorating the tree so memorable is the ornaments that have been collected over time — many of them handmade treasures. Looking through them is a trip down memory lane, bringing to mind the happy times these ornaments recall.

Today in a hurried society, it may seem easier to simply head to the store and purchase a box full of ornaments for the tree. But spending time creating your own can be a family event that's a fun way to spend time together. Here are a few ideas.

"Tie-Dyed" Balls

Create ornaments that have the impression of being tie-dyed. Simply buy a box of clear glass ornaments from a craft store. Pop off the metal top and squirt one or two different colors of acrylic paint into the center of the ball. Replace the top and swirl the ball around until the paint coats the inside in a marbled pattern. Place on a surface where the balls won't roll, such as an empty egg carton, and let dry.

Wire Ornaments

Purchase thin craft wire and small beads of various colors. Bend the wire into holiday shapes, such as candy canes and

stars. This can be achieved by wrapping the wire around cookie cutters as templates. Thread the beads onto the wire shape until it is completely covered with beads. Use a needle-nose pliers to twist together the two open ends to seal the ornament shut.

Popsicle Stick Treasures

Craft sticks, popsicle sticks, whatever you call them, these wooden items can be glued and painted to create a number of ornaments for the tree. Fashion them into a triangular shape and paint green for a Christmas tree. Glue a handful together and paint white for a snowflake. Dust these ornaments with glitter for even more sparkle on the tree.

Craft Foam Creations

Pop into any craft store or even toy store and you will likely find packages or loose sheets of thin colored foam that can be cut and designed into everything from sun visors to doorknob signs to fun ornaments for the tree.

Survive The Holiday Shopping Season

More so than ever before, the word most associate with the holiday season nowadays isn't "Christmas" or "joy" or even "vacation". Instead, many people are simply hoping to "survive" once the holiday season hits full swing. Arguably the most hectic time of the year, the holidays can also be the most stressful, particularly when it comes to holiday shopping.

Surviving the stresses of holiday shopping is no small task. However, the following tips should help make this season more about "joy" and less about "survival".

* Pay in cash. Much of the stress associated with holiday shopping surrounds a shopper's bottom line. With credit and even debit cards, it's easy for shoppers to stretch their budgets and overspend, which greatly contributes to the stress of the season. To avoid overspending, make all of your holiday pur-

chases in cash. Visit the mall with cash in hand, leave your credit cards at home and tell yourself you're only capable of spending what's in your wallet. You can't spend cash you don't have, so making purchases in cash could be your way of policing your purchases and reducing the stress that finances create come the holiday season.

* Shop early. The earlier you start your holiday shopping, the less stressful it's likely to be. While everyone seems to know at least one person who begins their holiday shopping in summer or fall, that's not really necessary. Instead, think about starting in November or commit to shopping in early December. By getting an earlier start, the lines are likely to be shorter at the stores; parking will be easier to find; and the stores are more likely to have what you're looking for.

* Use technology. For many, the Internet's greatest gift is cutting down on the time they used to spend waiting on line while doing their holiday shopping. Shopping online greatly reduces the time it takes to buy gifts for all those on your shopping list. And since the Internet never closes, you can do your online shopping at your leisure without having to worry about what times the stores open or close. If you plan on doing your shopping

online, you'll want to do so sooner rather than later. Shipping is always an unpredictable variable when it comes to buying online, so leave plenty of time for your gift to arrive before the big day.

* Look for sales. While comparing and contrasting prices can take some time, it can also save you substantial amounts of money. Having more money than expected at the end of the holiday season is not only rewarding, but goes a long way toward lessening the stress associated with the holidays. Oftentimes, bigger chain stores allow you to buy discounted products on their Web site and then go pick the items up in the store, where they're listed at full price. So comparison shopping can even be done between a physical store and its virtual self.



In This Season Of Joy...



It is with deepest gratitude that we extend our holiday greetings to our loyal customers, neighbors, associates and friends. Knowing people like you makes doing business a genuine joy for us all year long.

Happy Holidays!

Flower Basket & Gift Box
E. North Street, McConnellsburg

A Flurry of Holiday Wishes

Peace, joy, happiness, love...
May the Christmas season shower you and your loved ones with many blessings!

We deeply appreciate your support as customers and friends.
Thanks, and Happy Holidays!

Eddy's Engraving & Gifts
Penn's Village Shopping Center, McCbq.

... 'Tis The Season To Be Thankful!

It may be cold outside, but our spirits are warmed as we recall the many fine folks who we've had the pleasure to meet this year.

We sincerely value your business and wish you all the very merriest holiday season followed by a simply spectacular year. Thanks!

Lilley Welding
Ft. Littleton
Austin Lilley & Family

Happy Holidays To All!



To Our Good Friends, Everywhere!

In this season of peace and goodwill, we'd like to extend our gratitude and best wishes to all those who have passed our way this year. We look forward to serving you again soon, and wish you all a very merry holiday season.

Ramsey's Septic Service
Jason Ramsey
McConnellsburg

Greetings At The Winter Season

During this festive time of year, we'd like to extend our warmest wishes to you and your family and hope that the season brings an abundance of good friends, good times, and good tidings to your doorstep.

P & W Excavating
McConnellsburg

At Christmas play and make good cheer, For Christmas comes but once a year.

* Thomas Tusser

With best wishes and gratitude to all our friends and neighbors this holiday season.
HAVE A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Fulton County Medical Center