

FleaMarket décor

EASY DIY WINDOW TREATMENTS WITH YOUR FAVORITE COLLECTIBLES



A Fresh Start

New ideas FOR OLD THINGS

Vintage rug care 101

BEFORE & AFTERS: SIMPLE MAKEOVERS AND MAJOR RENOVATIONS

Jeanie's Magic

Rethink, Reuse

Sometimes a home refresh means repurposing what you already own.

BY JEANIE ENGELBACH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RIKKI SNYDER

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE START OF A NEW YEAR that makes us think everything should be fresh and new—whether it's our attitude or health? After all the festive and celebratory décor of the holidays, now is the best time to experiment with your home décor by creatively repurposing what you already own.

Being a professional organizer grants me access to people's homes on a daily basis, and my previous work experience in merchandising and display allows me to confidently defy convention in how furniture can function in the home.

Unless you enjoy changing up the look for the sake of shaking things up, I recommend considering what you need in a specific space and whether you have something that can serve that purpose but may not currently be fulfilling that need.

I never really liked my coffee table (it was an expensive custom-made mistake of my parents, which I willingly took to furnish my first apartment in 1990), yet I have a vintage yellow bench that was used more for display than seating. Although the bench is longer and narrower than a typical coffee table, it fits the space perfectly and can provide additional seating at the dining table should I ever decide to host a sit-down meal. Big bonus: I got rid of one table, two chairs and didn't need to purchase anything!

A makeover isn't always about major moves; sometimes we need to channel our inner Dada to declare, for example, this is no longer a bench or display space and is now a coffee table. Flea-market décor is about seeing the beauty, appreciating the history and creating a new purpose in the tried and true.

[before]



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[after]



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