

Fresh looks, decor tips for seasonal update

By Barbara DeWitt
Copley News Service

So you're tired of the old stuff but not ready to dump it? How about freshening up the house with some inexpensive decorating tricks?

Wash the windows. This chore has long been associated with the arrival of spring and will make the house sparkle. It may also force you to take a look at the window coverings that may need repair or replacement.

Give your window coverings a summer replacement. Think of fabric or pleated shades or curtains made of sheets or swathe the windows in lace.

Roll up the rugs on hardwood or tile floors for a cooling effect. Or

add a whimsical dhurrie rug in fresh pastels over the floor or wall-to-wall carpeting. Rectangular shapes are your best value, and you can purchase one for as little as \$50.

Bring the outdoors inside. Arrange spring blooms, such as daffodils and tulips, in a crystal vase or pansies in little terra-cotta pots. Even silk copies of seasonal flowers will help you get a case of spring fever.

Add slipcovers. This old-fashioned idea is new again, especially when the fabric is pastel or floral chintz. When picking flowers, think big, and when thinking of pastels, think pink, seafoam green, coral and cream.

Take inventory of your accesso-



ries. Rearrange all your coffee table knickknacks, vases, statues and art objects.

Clutter is in again on the old coffee table, but it's studied clutter. Fresh ideas are seashells, hunks of coral, rocks and minerals, sculptures and flower arrangements.

Change your centerpiece. Fresh flowers in non-vases (bowls, cups, mugs) are cheery, and so are candles floating in a bowl of water. If

you like the Southwestern look, use pots of flowering cactus — real or silk.

Break your dining habits. Make your dining table festive with frilly new place mats and coordinating napkins. Mix and match plates, an ideal way to extend the life of incomplete patterns.

Paint the walls. This is a relatively inexpensive method of brightening up a room or changing a mood. Navajo white is light-hearted, but pale, grayed or icy pastels also will do the trick.

Attack your patio. Hose it down, patch it up, paint the concrete. Then add pots of flowers and plants. Give your patio furniture a boost with new webbing or pillows.

Hang a hammock. Toss a few pretty pillows on it and climb in. This leisure style of furniture has returned as a very up-to-the-minute item.

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