

# Green Holiday Decoration Ideas:

If purchasing holiday decorations, keep these 5 things in mind:

**Renewable; Biodegradable; Recycled and Recyclable; Energy-saving; Reduced Toxicity**

- Bring in greenery and berries from outside to decorate your mantle, stairs, wreaths, centerpieces, etc.
- Use LED lights. For any holiday lights, try to make sure that the wires do not have lead in the coating- most strings of lights do. Coated ones will sometimes have a warning to wash your hands after touching and/or that they are bad for your health. If you use old lights, be sure to always wash hands after touching the wires.
- Place holiday colored beans, lentils, or noodles into a glass jar for display on a countertop.
- Shop at your local thrift stores for great holiday decoration deals – place mats, tablecloths, electric window candles, holiday nic-nacs, glass jars, holiday cards, dinnerware, etc
- Use holiday napkins or placemats for mantle and centerpiece display bases.
- Use live greenery/trees for your holiday tree and décor.
  - Purchase your tree with a root ball so it can then be planted in your yard.
  - Purchase a local, no-spray, choose your own tree from Roll Out Farm in nearby Pilot, VA. In addition to its ecologically sound growing practices, Roll Out Farm powers equipment on used vegetable oil, has tree stands made out of reused farm equipment parts, and uses a tree-shaker made from scrap wood and an old washing machine motor.
  - Local tree nursery: Lacie's in the Valley, 750 Den Hill Road Christiansburg
  - Try a "Swedish Modern" tree for something different! Choose a beautiful, artistic, dead branch or small deciduous tree with leaves and decorate to your liking. Hypoallergenic!
- Decorate with local and/or organic edible foods you can enjoy later: bowls of nuts, fruits, colorful squash, pomegranates, Osage oranges (for fragrance), gingerbread houses.
- Make a Charlie Brown Tree with homemade ornaments!
- Make a tree garland out of packing peanuts, organic popcorn, organic cranberries, etc.
- For candles, choose natural ones made from a variety of renewable ingredients (palm oil, beeswax, and soy).

Many items above can be found at your local thrift stores:

**Y Thrift Stores**, 1000 N. Main St, Blacksburg and 7476 Lee Hwy, Radford

**Goodwill**, 255 Peppers Ferry Rd NE, Christiansburg

Health food stores: **Annie Kay's**, 1531 South Main Street

**Eats**, 1411 South Main Street (inside Oasis)

Retail: **Homebody**, Main St. Blacksburg

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# Green Hanukkah Decorations

**Dreidel** - Make your own dreidel from used cardboard, paper, or a clean, dry milk carton.

**Menorah** –

- Construct your a recycled menorah out of scraps of wood or just use soy/beeswax votives and ribbon from around your house to fashion a stylish row of individual menorah candles as a table centerpiece.
- Purchase or make your own LED menorahs.
- For Menorah candles, choose natural ones made from a variety of renewable ingredients (palm oil, beeswax, and soy).

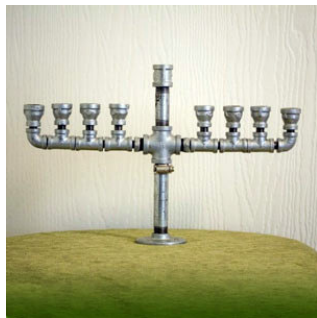
**Star of David** - Decorate with crafts such as a picture frame made from used popsicle sticks or one made from a patchwork of fabric scraps.

**Hanukkah bush** - almost any tree can be used to represent the Hanukkah bush—a houseplant, an outdoor tree or even a live evergreen. But you could choose to skip the tree all together and instead make a symbolic donation to a tree planting project through the Jewish National Fund.

**Sounds of Hanukkah** - Instead of filling your home with tangible decorations and ornaments, why not “decorate” your home by playing “Ma’oz Tzur,” “Mi Y’maleil,” or “Chanukah, Oh Chanukah.” This can cost very little, creates less waste (especially if you purchase e-tunes online sans packaging through iTunes or Amazon.com), and requires very little setup or take down.

Ideas from: <http://www.greenyour.com/node/13966?subject=13948&category=9480>

For the Festival of Lights, menorahs can be made of recycled pipes or mixed media:



Menorah made of recycled pipes



This contemporary mixed-media menorah is constructed from recycled olive oil cans, copper nails, mahogany, and wooden beads. Brass fittings hold the candles.