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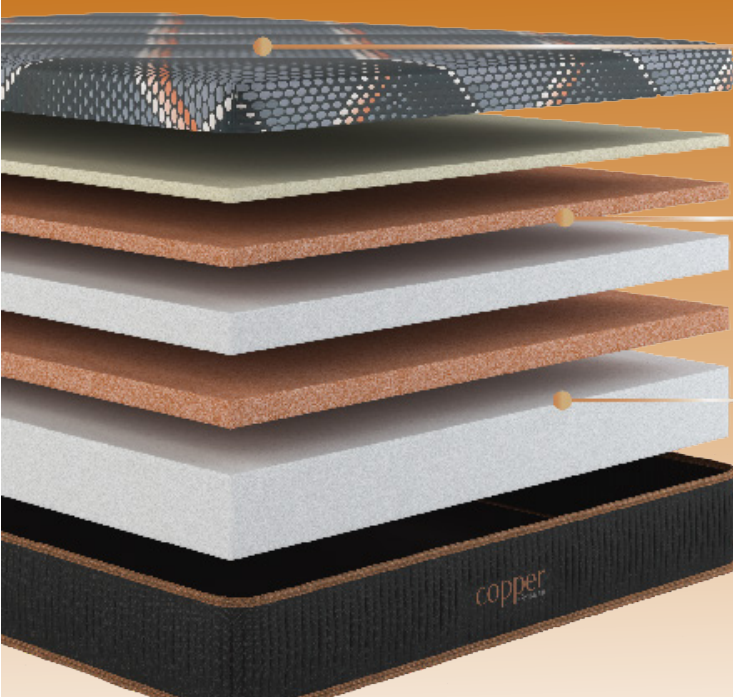



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Kid-crafted holiday decor ideas

Getting children in on the fun of decorating for the holiday season makes this time of year that much more special. Children who make their own ornaments and other items can proudly display them all season long.

There are plenty of hand-made holiday crafts to keep little fingers occupied. Here are some ideas to spark imagination and hours of creative fun.

Easy snow globes

A visit to the craft store will uncover various items that can be turned into snow globes. Look for a plastic cookie jar-like container with a lid that screws on tightly; otherwise, choose glass mason jars. Use a general ratio of one cup of water, three teaspoons of glycerine or an oil like baby oil or mineral oil, and a few

teaspoons of glitter. Glue a plastic Christmas tree or snowman figurine to the underside of the lid of the jar with a rubberized adhesive or another glue that will hold up to wet conditions. When dry, replace the lid, invert the jar and watch the snow fall.

Salt dough ornaments

Salt dough is a modeling dough made from two cups of all-purpose flour, one cup of salt, and about 3/4 cup of water. Mix the ingredients together and knead until the dough is smooth and easy to work with. Add more flour if it's too sticky; more water if it's too dry. Kids can use cookie cutters to cut shapes from the rolled-out dough, or sculpt freehand. Remember to poke a hole through the top of the ornament to thread through string or

ribbon later on. While the dough can be dried out by air in about a week, a faster method is to bake in an oven at 250 F for 1 1/2 to two hours, or until the dough is dry and hard. Kids can then paint the dried creations.

Paper gingerbread figures

Children may delight in making life-sized gingerbread girls and boys they can decorate and then hang up on the wall. A roll of brown postal paper will work, as will other embellishments like markers, paints, crayons, or ribbon. Kids take turns being traced while lying down on a piece of rolled-out paper. Then the general shape is cut out and decorated. Children can raise their arms, bend their legs, or vary their positions to give life to the ginger-

bread figures.

Winter wonderland

It can be fun to create a diorama or small winter landscape that can be set out with other decorations. Craft stores will likely sell small, plastic evergreen trees this time of year, or they may be available in the model train aisle of a local hobby shop. The trees can be given snowy boughs with a little acrylic paint. Include figures of bunnies, deer and whatever else kids can dream up. A thin strand of LED, battery-operated lights can add some illumination to the scene. Secure all items to a piece of cardboard or foam board for ease.

Children can make the most of their time crafting items for holiday decorating.

Cake pops to light up kids' eyes this holiday season

There's no denying Christmas Eve is a little more special in homes where kids are excited about an overnight visit from Santa Claus. Indeed, kids' joy and enthusiasm helps to make the holiday season such a special time of year.

Since kids add so much to the holidays, it makes sense to prepare something special for youngsters. Of course, treats such as these "Christmas Tree Cake Pops" from Lines+Angles also may appeal to festive adults.

Christmas Tree Cake Pops

- Makes 24 cake pops
- 1 box vanilla cake mix
 - 3/4 cup canola oil
 - 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
 - 1 cup confectioners' sugar
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 1 teaspoon milk
 - 3 1/2 cups green candy melts
 - 24 cake pop sticks
 - Icing dots
 - Icing stars

1. Prepare cake according to package instructions,

adding 3/4 cup canola oil to the cake mix before baking.

2. Once cake is cool to the touch, transfer to a large mixing bowl and break up into crumbs. Allow to cool completely.

3. In a medium bowl, add the butter, sugar, vanilla, and milk. Use an electric mixer and beat on medium speed for about 4 minutes until light and fluffy.

4. Add 3/4 of the frosting to the cake crumbs and mix until mixture can hold together well. Refrigerate for at least an hour.

5. Using your hands, shape the cake pop mixture into 24 conical shapes.

6. Melt the green candy melts. Dip one end of each of the cake pop sticks into the melted chocolate before inserting into the bottom of the cake pops. Dip each cake pop into the melted chocolate, making sure to cover completely, allowing excess to drip back into bowl.

7. Use a toothpick to create the textured look of the tree and decorate with the icing dots and stars before standing upright to dry completely.



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Harvest: '00 JD 925 25' PF, FF auger, hyd fore& AFT; Harvest hand 25' head trailer; (2) Brent 544 GW red, RH dump; (2) Brent 640 GW, lights & fenders, lh dump; Brent 644 GW, fenders, RH dump; Westfield MKX 13x74 auger, hyd. SH; Universal 1547 beltveyor, w/10 hp, 3ph motor; Several 250-350 bu GW; EZ Flow 425 bu grain cart; Peck 10x66 auger w/sh; M&W 400 bu GW, 2 doors, new tires,

Misc Equipment: JD 960 FC, coil tine harrow, 30ft; Landoll 855 SF, 25', sharp; Great Planies YP 1625A planter, 132 twin row 36", adaptable to 16 row 30", 82 bu, 400 gal liquid , hyd drive row shut off; Ag Co Black Machine 12x30 or 13x15 planter, KPM2 monitor; JD 1518 batwing mower; JD 717 3pt rotary mower; Mills MFG Power Spread 700V, manure spreader; Meyer M390 manure spreader; Arps 70 snow blower; JD 34 manure spreader; New snow pushers; 2-16ft thrower racks; Westendorf WL-42 loader; '21 Polaris Ranger, Northstar premium, 19K miles; '20 Polaris Ranger XP1000 premium, needs engine; '09 Polaris Ranger 500 XP full size, 1200 hrs; Kubota 1100, CAH; Coleman youth SXS

Construction: '06 NH LS160 SL, 4400 hrs; Wood splitter for SL; Mustang 1000 gas SL, sharp; Owatonna 1000 SL; Hundreds of skid steer attachments; Mini excavators; Mini skid steers; Hyster forklift, non-runner

Misc: 12-15 shipping containers 20 & 40ft; JD LA135 ride mower w/snowblower, thatcher, deck, bagger; JD 47 snowblower, fits, JD1025R; Simplicity snow blower; Several bundles of RR ties; Barnwood picnic tables & bar tables; Gnuse 75' 3pt bkt; JD 7ft bkt w/Euro mts; 3pt JD log splitter; New metal work benches; New self-dumping hoppers; New electric golf carts; New carports; New roofing/siding steel; New lumber; EZ steer 250

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Very partial listing. Due to the holiday we needed to send the ad in early.

Auctioneer Notes: Running-2 rings Saturday with live & internet bidding. Sunday will be pallet row items online only at noon. It's always a good idea to call if you are coming from a long distance away for a certain piece of equipment to make sure it showed up at the sale lot. Check the website often for updates on equipment arrival. We will update as items come in. Many more consignments are expected. Free Load out available. All items must be in the sale yard by Wednesday, December 10th @ 4:30PM Terms: Cash, Check, ACH in US only, wire transfer \$10.00 fee, or Credit Card (with additional 4% fee). No invoices exceeding \$1,500.00 can be paid for with a credit card. Nothing removed until settled for. ID required to get a bidding number. Everything sold as is with no warranty. All announcements made on sale day take precedence over printed material. Not responsible for accidents, theft, or weather-related damage.

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Kid-friendly holiday traditions

Tradition is a big part of the holiday season. Families lean into tradition each December, and perhaps no people participate in holiday customs with more enthusiasm than children. Whether it's decorating the family Christmas tree or baking cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve, children look forward to various holiday season traditions once the calendar turns from November to December.

Parents of young children can make this unique time of year even more special

by engaging in various kid-friendly traditions that are sure to produce lots of fun and even more lasting memories.

- **Advent calendars:** The precise origins of Advent calendars are unknown, but historians believe the tradition was started by German Lutherans in the nineteenth century. More than a century later, roughly 50 million Advent calendars are sold across the globe each year, according to Marketplace.org. Advent is a nearly monthlong period of prepa-

ration for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25. Each day during Advent, children open a flap, window or door and find a small gift, poem, candy, or another item that adds to the excitement of the season.

- **Matching pajamas:** Though the tradition of wearing matching holiday pajamas may not have the same lengthy history as Advent calendars, it's nonetheless a very fun custom for families. Parents can decide how frequently their fami-

lies dress up in matching pajamas at bedtime during the holiday season, but doing so on Christmas Eve is a popular way to make a fun day even more special. Another idea is to host weekly holiday movie nights during the season, which presents a perfect opportunity to don matching PJs.

- **Holiday lights tour:** Holiday lighting displays have come a long way in recent decades. Whereas it might once have been popular to string a few strands of lights around the exterior of

a house, many holiday celebrants now beckon their inner Clark Griswold and turn their properties into areas with enough illumination to land a small plane. Holiday inflatables for the yard add to the awe of such displays. Kids tend to be especially fond of these types of displays, so parents can make a point to pick a night each holiday season to go on a tour of their neighborhoods and towns to see this year's offerings.

- **Christmas dance party:** Sweets are another staple of

the holiday season, and what better way for kids to burn off some of that extra sugar than to dance it away to a holiday music playlist curated by Mom and Dad? Cue up some holiday classics but let kids dance to a few of their own favorites as well.

Holiday traditions help to make the season a special time of year. Families can embrace various kid-friendly traditions to ensure children have even more fun this December.

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Pet-friendly holiday decorating

Decorating is one of the great joys of the holiday season. Stores adorn their front-facing windows with amazing displays and homeowners often deck out residences from top to bottom with all measures of holiday wonderment.

Approximately 94 million households in the United States feature a pet, according to the American Pet Products Association. Many of those households will be decorating for the holidays and must figure out ways to keep homes safe for all residents — including those covered in fur. These tips can ensure a pet-friendly season with lots of holiday decor.

- Choose shatterproof decorations. Select shatterproof ornaments and other decorative items that are durable and non-toxic. Items made from felt, fabric or wood tend to be safer than items that can break.

- Pick pet-friendly plants. Poinsettias and mistletoe may be traditional, but they can be toxic to pets. Additional options like Christmas cactus can be safer. Artificial plants are another alternative to con-

sider.

- Opt out of open flames. It is best to avoid traditional candles when pets are around. Instead, there are plenty of those powered by LED lights that even mimic the flicker of real candles.

- Avoid tinsel and ribbons. Digestive issues or blockages can affect pets who ingest tinsel or ribbons. Select pet-safe ribbons or garlands, and skip the tinsel entirely.

- Avoid edible decor. Candy canes on trees or popcorn garlands are festive, but they may prove too tempting for pets to resist. Animals can get sick and may knock over the Christmas tree or other items to access the food.

- Secure decorative items. Position the Christmas tree in an area that is not easily accessible. Avoid putting it near furniture that can be used as a jumping-off point. Make sure the tree stand is sturdy enough to prevent tipping, and consider using wire or string to tie the tree to a ceiling or wall anchor for further stability.

- Mind the scents. Some



fragrances can be overwhelming or irritating for pets, so use scented diffusers or plug-ins sparingly. A simmering pot of cloves, cinnamon sticks and orange rinds can create a

welcoming, all-natural aroma.

- Create a sanctuary. Try not to move too many of the pet's creature comforts, such as favorite toys or bedding. If you must

move these items out of the way, gradually introduce the pet to his or her new area, which can be set away from the hustle of the main entertaining area.

A pet-friendly holiday

season involves being mindful of pets' safety while decorating.

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