

This Free E-Book is brought to you by Natural-Aging.com.

**[100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment](#)
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!**

Quick, Easy and Affordable Ways for Making Traditional Christmas Dishes Festive

By Susan Dunn

Quick, Easy and Affordable Ways for Making Traditional Christmas Dishes Festive by

Susan Dunn, The EQ Coach

Here are some ways to dress up the "traditional" favorites at your Christmas dinner.

PIE CRUST

1. Make your usual pie crust, 2-crust version. Line the pie tin, put in the filling, and now it's time to play. Roll out the second crust and start cutting shapes - using cookie cutters or free form with a knife. At Thanksgiving, for instance, up at my son's house I was stuck without the "necessary" equipment so I improvised, just carving out a leaf using one nearby as a model. First one doesn't work? Pie dough is very forgiving. Roll it up and start again. Your "second chances" are infinite. You could also use something from a child's coloring book for a pattern.

One idea - cut out 3 rounds for holly berries (use bottle cap or such if you don't have small round cutter). Then use knife to cut out spiky holly leaves. Or use a Santa Claus cookie cutter. Place these on top of the pie filling and bake away.

If you have the time and the inclination, when the pie is baked and cooled, then use frosting to decorate your crust decoration. To save time, use those little tubes from the grocery; no one cares how it tastes. Licorice for Santa's belt, etc.

2. Using whatever you have for the top crust - shapes, lattice or solid, apply egg yolk and then sprinkle w/ colored sugar.

3. Do the usual only very different, i.e., make a pumpkin chiffon pie. At serving time, crumble candy canes and sprinkle on top.

CANDY CANES

Quick, Easy and Affordable Ways for Making Traditional Christmas Dishes Festive

Candy canes go so well with chocolate. You can make a chocolate dessert, like that instant pudding concoction, and then sprinkle crushed candy canes atop.

SWEET POTATOES

Make your usual sweet potato recipe and put it in the Pyrex®. Then whip up meringue nice and stiff, with lots of sugar. Circle the bowl with the meringue, and then make dollops on top with peaks. Then you can (1) sprinkle it with colored sprinkles, or (2) in the center put 3 maraschino cherries and some pineapple leaves, like holly.

Or put marshmallows around the rim and decoration in the middle. You can shape the pineapple

leaves with scissors.

BOULE DE NIEGE

Very simple, cheap, elegant looking. Buy ice cream - for Christmas it could be peppermint, coconut or pistachio. Let the ice cream soften just enough to work with, and then scoop it into a round Pyrex® that you've greased lightly

with Pam®. Put it in the freezer until well frozen again. Then take it out, soak the dish briefly in larger bowl of

warm water until you see the ice cream melting on the edges, turn it over on a pretty serving platter, and out it comes

in a dome. Tear strips of waxed paper and place them all around the plate, under the ice cream. Now whip cream until

stiff, put in pastry bag, use a tip such as Wilton 2D and pipe, pipe, pipe, little shaped blobs, each one next to the other until the mound is completely covered. Gently remove the waxed paper, wipe the serving platter with a wet rag, and place the ball back in the freezer until frozen. Once it's frozen, cover it - I put a stainless steel bowl over it - and let it stay there until ready to serve.

At serving time you can add some decorations piping colored whipped cream, or using cherries and leaves again, but my favorite is to leave it elegantly white. "Boule de neige" is French for snowball!

BEEF WELLINGTON

Make a mixture of Dijon mustard and those colored peppercorns that are red, green and white – a "four-color mélange" is available here:

<http://www.happycookers.com/wc.dll/products/divulge/3-1918.html> . Coat the beef with this before you encrust it. You can also use this on turkey, Prime Rib, or Crown Roast. For a photo, go here:

http://www.zinos.com/cool/zinos/author_area/preview_article?;AR008410 .

P.S. Be sure and put dough cut outs atop the Beef Wellington, too!

INDIVIDUAL TRIFLES

Here are some really cute star-shaped Christmas bowls (<http://www.happycookers.com/wc.dll/products/divulge/1-21856.html>). Make trifle and put them in these dishes. Then smooth over the top with whipped cream.

MASHED POTATOES

Mash them and put them in a serving bowl. Then sprinkle just enough cayenne and parsley flakes for color.

PARFAITS

Here's a super easy, cheap, and very eye-appealing dessert.

Version 1: Fill fluted glasses with vanilla ice cream, or peppermint. Drizzle green crème de menthe and chocolate over it. Add maraschino cherry - red or green. If you use red cherry, add green mint leaf.

Version 2: Use vanilla ice cream and hot fudge sauce, and sprinkle crumbled candy cane over it.

TRIFLE

Trifle is, as I'm sure you know, a cold dessert made with liqueur-soaked sponge cake, layers of fruit, jelly, custard and whipped cream. It makes a great Christmas dessert because it can be made well ahead of time, it's got cheap ingredients, it's not familiar to a lot of people and they think it looks intricate to make, and ... the presentation!

For instance since the ingredients are so cheap, why not buy the Spode Christmas tree soup tureen - "just" \$348.95 (instead of \$535.00) at amazon.com kitchenware. j.k.

However, put the trifle in a tureen and then put a layer of whipped cream on the top smoothing it completely (use a warm wet flat spatula). What makes it special is people will keep trying to "pick up the lid" which is the whipped cream, and there are fingerprints all over it and lots of laughs and "oohs" and "aahs."

VEGIES

Put chopped red peppers in among the peas, Brussels sprouts or broccoli; chopped green pepper in with the tomatoes. Cut stars out of cheese and place atop casserole.

Don't do all of these things; that's too much. Choose one or two.

AND DON'T FORGET TO DRESS THE HOSTESS

Quick, Easy and Affordable Ways for Making Traditional Christmas Dishes Festive

A Christmas apron is always fun. Here's a Santa one with matching hat:

<http://avalonusa.com/christmas/aprons.htm> , a sexy Santa girl apron (

[http://www.incrediblegifts.com/sagichap](http://www.incrediblegifts.com/sagichap.html)

.html), and my personal favorites - affordable white cotton with ruffles, Christmas tree, gingerbread men, spoon and candy cane (<http://www.asianhomeandcrafts.org/apronbib.html>). For more sources, go here:

<http://opten.org/public/BI/BI324.html> .

(c)Susan Dunn, The EQ Coach, <http://www.susandunn.cc> . Coaching for all your needs – career, relationship, personal and professional development. Check out Susan's eBooks

–www.webstrategies.cc/ebooklibrary.htm and The EQ Foundation Course –

<http://www.webstrategies.cc/EQcourse.htm> . Take The Course and be ready for the New Year.

[Mailto:sdunn@susandunn.cc](mailto:sdunn@susandunn.cc) for FREE eZine.

Ideas For Your Interior Christmas Decorating

By Adam Peters

There are many different ideas for interior Christmas decorating. Interior Christmas decorating is an important part of most people's holiday festivities. For many people, the interior decorations are what defines the season of Christmas. Your home will feel warm with the proper interior Christmas decorating scheme. There are a variety of decorating ideas on the market today, but the best way to complete your interior Christmas decorating is to make the items yourself or with your family. The holiday season is about spending time together, and making things to warm your home will only help signify that to your family. There are several great ideas for your interior Christmas decorating needs.

Make yours the perfect holiday home with interior Christmas decorating

· First, create a diorama of bears or dolls dressed in festive seasonal clothes. You could put a small tree with little presents in your display. This is a great way to get your kids involved in the decorating process. Just be sure you don't use a favorite security object, as it might prove difficult to disassemble the diorama throughout the course of the season.

· Second, meet your interior Christmas decorating needs by creating bows from Christmas print ribbon and putting them in various places around your house including your curtains. · Third, hang stockings throughout your house, even if you know they aren't your stuffing stockings. It offers a festive feel to your home.

Next, use fabric paint and a traditional white table cloth to make a holiday patterned table cloth. This is another great activity to do with your little ones. Just be sure to express to them that they are not allowed to paint on the tablecloth on a year round basis. Next, dress your bathroom for the holidays by attaching ornaments and other decorations(of the unbreakable type) to a clear shower curtain with a hot glue gun. Another decorating idea is to get your houseplants into the swing of the season by hanging ornaments on them after you decorate your tree. For a quick ornament idea, try hanging a cookie cutter with a bit of Christmas ribbon. To help with your decoration as well as your Christmas

Quick, Easy and Affordable Ways for Making Traditional Christmas Dishes Festive

trivia knowledge, place a basket of seasonal books on your coffee table or end table. It will look festive, and it may just help you win a quick family game sometime.

Interior Christmas decorating does not have to be difficult or expensive with ideas like these.

Adam Peters writes regularly for

. Peters contributes adding

reviews very often on decorating and design topics. You can also reach interesting articles on easter and christmas decorations at his site (

)



This Free E-Book has been brought to you by Natural-Aging.com.

**[100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment](#)
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!**

Quick, Easy and Affordable Ways for Making Traditional Christmas Dishes Festive

