



Bright Idea: Wreath Decorating Party

Looking to create a new holiday tradition or just put some pizzazz in an old one? How about a safe and bright wreath decorating party? The supplies are minimal and you can really get creative. Here are some suggestions for supplies as well as several bright idea starters to get you going. We'd love to see what you create, so post your finished masterpieces on our Facebook page– you'll find it by searching Safetyathome.

Getting Started:

Create a holiday tradition with a lighted holiday wreath, using certified UL lights of course. Simply gather a group of friends or family, provide supplies and ideas, and see what you can make. Serve up some snacks, play a little holiday music and you'll soon have a new holiday tradition.

Suggested Supplies (the basics):

- 12" Green Wreath
- Strand of UL Certified lights
- Red, silver, gold and blue ribbons
- Cranberry or other red colored plastic holiday stems
- An assortment of mini holiday balls
- Silver bells

Suggested additional supplies if desired:

- Craft glue
- Floral wire
- Glitter
- Pine cones
- Other small holiday décor such as plastic snowflakes
- Holiday candy canes and peppermints
- Nuts

Instructions:

To begin, carefully wrap the strand of lights around the wreath. Tuck lights between greens, but do not pull tightly or wrap individual greens around the cord. Remember when you plug the wreath in, never overload a socket with more cords than the socket can handle and be sure to use the proper gauge extension cord. UL also recommends that you only string three (3) or fewer strands of lights together to avoid a possible fire hazard or shock. Once the wreath has lights on it, use decorations as well as your imagination to make your own personal wreath.

If you need a few suggestions for decorating, here are some idea starters using all of the materials listed above. Have a safe and bright holiday!





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The Golden Pine ▶

Make a statement with gold. Attach glittered pinecones (either store bought or ones you decorate yourself) around the wreath. Wrap gold garland or beads throughout the wreath and finish with a large gold bow.



The Candyland ▶

Using real or ornamental candies, create a colorful and delicious decoration. Start by attaching colorful candies to the wreath using wire or hot glue and add a bow.



The Berry Good ▶

Carefully attach several cranberry stems around the wreath in a circular direction. Attach a bright bow.



The Winter Wonderland ▶

For a wreath that lasts long after the holidays, decorate with plastic snowflakes and other winter-like accessories. Consider using a blue or silver ribbon and tie it over the top of the wreath as a hanger. Add other ornaments for a splash of color.



The Wrap Around ▶

Wrap ribbon around the wreath about eight times. The ribbon becomes the decoration and you can tie it in a large, decorative bow that hangs down in the center. Ornaments and bells can also be added for a colorful touch.



The Classic ▶

Attach classic red and gold holiday ornaments around the wreath at even intervals. Use a large red bow at the top to create a colorful holiday wreath.





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Other Ideas:

The Fruit and Nut

Fruit and nuts are often a traditional part of holiday celebrations. Fruits such as oranges and apples can be incorporated into the wreath and tied on with wires assuming that you are using miniature or smaller fruits. Nuts are easily attached with a hot glue gun. This wreath is for inside use so it doesn't become lunch for the birds and squirrels.

The Bird Nest

Start with sticks, twigs, berries, leaves and pinecones gathered in the yard. Cover them in glitter and attach to the wreath in a circular fashion so that the wreath takes on the appearance of a nest. Add miniature craft birds.

The Mini-Me

Miniature ornaments found at a craft store or even in your own ornament boxes make wonderful wreath decorations. Consider making miniature bows as well and covering the wreath with them.

The Kitchen Drawer

How about a kitchen wreath? Attach wooden spoons and other small kitchen gadgets using wire. Affix a bow or use kitchen twine to make one.

Baby's First

If you have a new baby in the house, a fun idea is to gather up some brightly colored teething toys and attach them to your wreath. Red and green plastic "links" work great. Add a brightly colored bow tied with a rattle.

The Family Tree

This one takes some planning ahead. Purchase small silver frames at a craft store and put pictures of your family inside of them. Hint: a great place to find these is in the scrap book section. Attach the frames to the wreath and add a silver bow.

Additional Ideas:

- Glitter the wreath itself
- Paint the wreath a different color
- Hang the wreath with a long ribbon
- Think about what room the wreath will go into and decorate accordingly
- Look through older holiday decorations to spark an idea
- Never underestimate the power of simplicity – a single pear makes a beautiful decoration

Bow Making:

Nothing makes a wreath stand out like a terrific bow. Don't settle for the simple loop variety; try something new. You can watch any number of instructional videos on YouTube or check out some of our favorite Web Sites for how-to's:

www.marthastewart.com/article/tying-a-wreath-bow

www.save-on-crafts.com/howtomakperb.html

www.emilyroses.com/wreath/bows.html