

Your Holiday Decor To-Do List

Written by Nadine Toren

[Television personality](#) and AZfoothills.com columnist [Nadine Toren](#) is scouring the area, finding savvy Valley features, bringing readers “on the scene.” Every day she’ll introduce you to [celebrities](#), [athletes](#), and give you an inside look into local events and hot spots. She’ll touch on topical issues, and keep AZ fans posted on all the big talkers [around town](#).



Want to dress your house in the coolest of seasonal colors? Check out these must-try decor tips, courtesy of the experts at Scottsdale Fashion Square.

Don’t be a Grinch or go by “bah-humbug;” get in the holiday spirit and prepare for Santa! But this year, take things to a level Mrs. Claus would be proud of--coating your house in seasonal colors and décor. According to Kate Birchler, Scottsdale Fashion Square’s Senior Marketing Manager, a handful of savvy holiday trends are hitting the Valley. And topping the list, the coolest of Christmas trees.

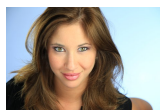
Birchler says 2011’s the year of the themed tree. Our Fashion Square fashionista suggests doing something different, like dressing your tree in black and white, blue and silver, or red and gold. And top off your color combinations with nature-inspired ornaments, especially owls. (She says the bird is totally “in” right now.) To make things bright, skip the colorful lights; instead opt for white. And if you’re looking for something cool and classy, go with soft colors like pales and wintery whites.

I asked Birchler what every household should have this holiday season and her answer was simple: pumpkin pancake mix from Crate & Barrel. She says the taste and smell is delectable, delicious, and festive, especially when you add a Santa-like touch. A handful of stores offer pancake molds in holiday designs, and once their ready, top them off with marshmallows. She also suggests the Nutcracker baking kit from Williams Sonoma. (It’s great, tasty fun for the kids!)

And if you’re perusing the mall, pit-stop at The French Bee; Birchler says it’s your go-to hub for everything holiday. However, you’ll also want to stroll through the home and gift section of Neiman Marcus—Jay Strongwater has beautiful pieces that make wonderful presents. (And you just might see Neiman’s premiere designer at the Scottsdale store—he’s making a personal appearance this week!)

Finally, Birchler says if all else fails, consider Nate Berkus’ philosophy. (The designer has his own morning TV show.) Berkus tells his fans to create beautiful centerpieces by using natural, outside items. Small touches like pine cone place cards often add a nice touch.

For more holiday décor ideas, visit Scottsdale Fashion Square: www.fashionsquare.com.



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