

## Seasonal Tips

When Spring has finally sprung, what better time to bring the best of the outdoors in? "Changing Seasons" is the simplest way to freshen up your room and it doesn't have to be expensive or time consuming.

Show off your walls. Are your walls covered with artwork and homemade gifts? Most people hang everything they own on the walls and the result is boredom. Try taking all your artwork down and separate it into summer and winter piles. Hang the lighter pastel colors for spring / summer and put the deep, oil paintings in storage. Every six months rotate. This way your art will feel brand new and walls less cluttered.

Beautify the bedroom. This can do wonders for your personal space. Tuck away the heavy, winter flannel comforter and pull out the crisp bright floral linens and duvet covers. Don't forget accent pillows for added style and comfort.

Buy new bulbs! Not flower bulbs, light bulbs. In the winter, you need more light; in the spring less. Switch you 60 watt bulbs with a 3 way bulb to allow you to soften the light in a room. Look for energy efficient bulbs. They may cost more but last longer and helps reduce electric bills. Also available now are 3 way fluorescent bulbs.

Let the sunshine in! Dusty, dull windows can go unnoticed in the winter, but spring is the time to take advantage of the sunny season by giving your windows a wash. Clean windows will give the entire room a sparkling feel. Also simplify window treatments by removing heavy coverings and replacing with a lighter airy fabric.

Update accessories. Put away winter throws / quilts and replace by draping light bright throws over your sofa. Look for accent pillows in bright spunky colors. Pick out spring-hued candles and vases for a boost of color. Make use of slip covers on furniture for a new lighter look. Add spring elements such as plants, fresh flowers and lemons. Use table top water fountains to appeal to your audio senses.

Lose the magnets. In just minutes you can tidy the kitchen by getting rid of scraps of paper, business cards and take-out menus stuck to the fridge. Suggestion: at our house, behind my office door (out of site) is a large calendar and bulletin board. We've posted a sign called "Grand Central Station". When papers come home with dates, etc., we immediately put them on the calendar and throw the paper out, reducing clutter.