

Welcome to Creative Living with Sheryl Borden



**5600 Series
Home & Hearth Section - I**

Table of Contents

Home & Hearth

No Stress Entertaining Tips!	I-3
Three Easy Steps to a Beautiful Finish	I-4
QRB Furniture Staining 101	I-4
Get Design Advice: Finding Your Style	I-5
Creating Outdoor Rooms	I-7
How to Make a Professional Roman Shade	II-8
How to Make a Roman Shade Headrail	II-10
Faux Fun Window Treatments	II-12
Guests.....	II-13

Due to the size of this section, it has been divided into two section which will enable it to be downloaded much more quickly. For instance “No Stress Entertaining Tips!” is in Section I on page 3 whereas “How to Make a Professional Roman Shade” is in Section II on page 8.

NO STRESS

Entertaining TIPS!

It's easy to feel overwhelmed and stressed when entertaining, especially if your goal is to put on the perfect party. If you start to feel like you can't get everything done, you may be over-working and over-cleaning when you don't need to. Take a minute to read these helpful tips from Laura Dellutri that will guarantee your holidays are a delight.

1. Focus on what guests will see. Spend your time on the rooms your company will visit. Don't worry about cleaning the closets and organizing the drawers. No one will see inside. Focus on the things your company will see -- like dust. Instead of a traditional feather duster, use a Swiffer duster with Febreze that will not only bust the dust but leave a fresh scent behind.

2. Prepare guest rooms a week before your holiday party. You don't want to be stuck washing bedding on the day of your party. Use a fragrant detergent like Tide Pure Essentials with baking soda and white lilac that will not only leave a wonderful scent but the baking powder will brighten and freshen your laundry for years to come. For extra freshness the day before guests arrive, put a fabric softener sheet in between the sheets and your guests will feel pampered and immersed in luxury.

3. Guarantee dirt and grime stays on the outside. Get mats for your front door and entry before the party. Eighty-five percent of the dirt tracked into your home comes in on the bottom of shoes. An 8-foot-by-10 foot mat will ensure shoes hit the mat at least six times so visitors won't bring outside grime indoors.

4. Add shine to your floors. A clean sparkling floor shows guests your home is a safe place to nibble on holiday goodies. Instead of going the mop and bucket route, use a Swiffer Wet Jet, which will give you a better clean.

5. Shiny fixtures will impress your guests. Shiny says clean to holiday guests so make sure to go to work with a glass cleaner and dry microfiber cloth. Spray all your metal and glass surfaces, then buff them dry to a high shine with the dry cloth.

6. Vacuum only high traffic areas where your company will be. To save time vacuuming, focus on high traffic areas your company will see. No one will be inspecting the carpet corners.

7. Say good-bye to dish pan hands and use cooking spray. To make sure dishwashing is fast and easy and your hands stay soft and moisturized, spray every pan, pot, and piece of bake ware with cooking spray before you cook.

8. Spruce up the bathroom. There's no need to deep clean every inch of your bathroom. Use Mr. Clean Power Multi-Surface Disinfecting Wipes (in the blue box) to clean the sink, counters, fixtures and toilet in record time. Use the wipes — which are 30 percent stronger than other wipes — like you would a cloth.

9. Kitchen details do matter. At holiday parties, guests congregate in the kitchen before and after the party. So it's a good idea to pay attention to the little details. For unsightly dirty dishwashers use Dishwasher Magic to remove lime scale, rust and food particles. For stinky garbage disposals use Disposer Care to remove odors and the grunge that clings to the blades. These simple steps will make your kitchen look and smell better in minutes.

10. Make sure the only odors in your home are aromatic and fresh. Your guests will judge your home by the way it looks and smells. If you have pets, make sure pet odors don't greet your guests at the door. Change litter boxes, use an air purifier and light a Febreze Odor Eliminating Candle. They have an odor eliminating core that will help eliminate pet odors while releasing a fresh scent.

COURTESY: Laura Dellutri
Healthy Housekeeper, Inc.
www.lauradellutri.com





Three Easy Steps to a Beautiful Finish

Decorating with wood is a popular and economical way for do-it-yourselfers to make their homes more beautiful, welcoming and comfortable.

That's because adding a colorful stain to unfinished furniture, restoring the sheen to old hardwood floors or bringing out the natural beauty of paneling and trim is easier than you might expect. Just follow these three simple steps:

Step One: Preparation

Make sure the wood is ready to stain by first sanding it lightly in the direction of the grain with a medium grit sandpaper, followed by a fine grit. *Tip: After sanding, if the wood is soft or porous, always use a pre-stain wood conditioner to prevent blotching. If you are using a water-based stain, be sure to use a pre-stain wood conditioner, regardless of wood species.*

Step 2: Select and Apply Wood Stain

Choosing a wood stain is a matter of personal preference and do-it-yourselfers have a variety to choose from. Stains such as Minwax® Wood Finish™ feature traditional wood tones, while the company's Water-Based line (which includes six wood tones and 60 custom colors) allows you to select a stain color to coordinate with your decor. *Tip: Before staining, always test the selected stain on a hidden area of your piece, or on scrap wood that matches the wood species of your project.*

Step 3: Add a Protective, Clear Finish

After staining, always top coat with a clear finish. It will protect the wood against water, household chemicals, food stains and everyday wear. *Tip: To minimize brush marks and bubbles, "tip off" each section of your project before the finish dries. Hold the brush at a 45-degree angle and lightly run the bristles over the entire length of wood.*

COURTESY: Bruce Johnson
Minwax
www.minwax.com



Lynn Gerhart is the spokesperson for QRB Industries, and here's her story. My father, Ron Hack started QRB in 1963 while working as an X-ray technician. My parents bought an old house and store on the highway in Niles, Michigan. My dad decided to put the commercial property to good use so he started out selling fruit. Later on he began to visit the dump and pick out old discarded furniture. He taught himself how to re-upholster and started a small used furniture store.

He bought some paint remover to refinish some of the furniture but wasn't happy with what he found. None of the products worked very well; they damaged the furniture, and were expensive. Having some background in chemistry, he decided to make something for himself.

He came up with something he liked and refined it over time. Customers coming into our store asked him what he was using that did such a nice job. After explaining it was his own concoction many of them insisted he sell them some. He would have them bring in a jar and he would fill it for a couple dollars. Soon he decided to design a label and start marketing his new invention. He called it QRB for "Quick Restored Beauty".

My father came home from the hospital one day and told my mom "I quit my job today!" My mother was very concerned, being the conservative one in the family. But it has worked out quite nicely. Later my father added Instant Finish, Match-a-Color Stain, and Scratch-Remover to the product line.

Over the years much of our advertising has been by word of mouth and we have a loyal following of customers. We think this is due largely to the fact that we are not just trying to sell a product but to teach people how to refinish furniture. In 1981 we started doing local television shows. We often could not show our product but we would announce that we would be at a flea-market or a fair and that people could bring their own furniture to try it on. This proved to be a big success and thereafter we were convinced that *teaching* people how to refinish was the best approach. We have great products, and we are sure you will agree if you try them.



COURTESY: Lynn
Hack-Gerhart
QRB Industries
www.qrb.com



Get Design Advice: Finding Your Style

The best way to approach interior decorating is by first choosing a style. Do you prefer a look that's traditional, cottage, contemporary or an eclectic mix of styles? The ideal décor is one that suits your taste and lifestyle.

Traditional

Many furniture styles fall into the traditional category. The most enduring styles are English-inspired, such as Regency, Federalist, Queen Anne and Chippendale. French-inspired styles of Louis Philippe have also withstood the test of time. Mahogany, cherry and other richly toned woods and cherry finishes are staples of traditional style. Designs will often feature carvings, burl veneers and details such as marquetry. Traditional upholstery often features formal fabrics such as damask, jacquard and tapestry, in jewel-tone or muted shades.



Country & Cottage

Country and cottage styles encompass a broad range of designs that vary by region. The most influential in this category are French, English, Italian and American Colonial. Inviting comfort is the harmonizing theme with rural inspired touches. Lines are simple and tend to be minimally adorned. Woods are usually pine and oak in washed, pickled, antiques or painted finishes, often with hand-applied and painted accents. Painted pieces may be one color or two-tone combinations. Wicker and iron elements are also often incorporated. Natural fabrics, such as cotton and linen are frequently used in upholstered pieces.

Florals, stripes and checks are combined for a casual, comfortable look.

English country is somewhat more formal. One of the most recognizable examples of English country style is the Windsor chair, characterized by a spindle back, turned legs and a saddle-shaped seat, which originated from England's Windsor Castle in the early 1700s. Chintz fabric, in elegant floral, striped, gingham and plaid mixtures, is typical of English country upholstery.

Cottage style is often based on American Colonial silhouettes, in white or whitewashed finishes or even distressed black finishes. Cottage upholstery can vary from subdued pastel colors to brighter hues as in French country style, using a combination of floral, striped and solid fabrics for layers of visual appeal.

NOTE: Prefer a more relaxed look? Many classic designs are available in lighter woods and in more casual upholstery such as cotton, chenille and microfiber.

Modern & Contemporary

Inspired by the rise of industry in the early 20th Century, modern style echoes the streamlined silhouettes of industrial design used in inventions of the day such as skyscraper architecture and transportation. During this Machine Age, smooth surfaces, sweeping horizontal lines and rounded corners came to signify the image of efficiency and speed. Both French- and American-inspired, Art Deco was enamored with this glamorous and futuristic aesthetic, using new materials to construct home furnishings such as tinted glass, plastics, steel and chrome to accent pale or dark wood furnishings. Sleek, monochromatic upholstery in fabric and leather is generally used to complement this look.

Though “contemporary” and “modern” are sometimes used interchangeably, the styles have distinct differences. Contemporary style reflects current trends, often incorporating convenient elements into the furnishings, such as chairs with casters or sofas with built-in drink holders. Contemporary silhouettes often feature gently curved lines. Woods can be light or dark in tone with minimal grain, such as maple and birch. Accents include clear or frosted glass and metals such as stainless steel or chrome. Upholstery emphasizes the natural textures and neutral tones of cotton, silk, wool and linen, as well as leather. Vibrant colors and geometric patterns are also used, though usually in accessories such as rugs or accent pillows.



Eclectic



Not a style in itself, eclectic is a fusion of designs. If implemented carefully, the possibilities are endless. The key to mastering an eclectic look is to avoid an even 50/50 mixture. Instead, aim for a 2/3 to 1/3 mixture of styles. Even combinations of classic and contemporary home fashions can complement each other, creating interesting contrast. For example, one or two pieces of Louis Philippe-style or Federalist-style furniture can create a dramatic point of interest in an otherwise modern or contemporary room. Eclectic style is also a great way to incorporate family heirlooms into your décor without sacrificing your own style. Similarly, a

rustic piece such as a French country armoire or a cottage-style chest can work well with more refined traditional furniture, such as Queen Anne or Chippendale. Color balance is also important. The controlled use of one or two colors in upholstery fabrics and accents provides a common element to unite the various periods.

Transitional

Transitional style blends fresh contemporary furnishings with the best designs of the past for an attractive, easy-to-live-with style. Defined by understated form and restrained approach to line and material, this style is versatile, adapting easily to different décors. A transitional sofa can be dressed up to complement a more formal environment, or casually accented to suit a contemporary room.



Woods may be warm in tone, or even dark, but generally have minimal carving and ornamentation. Upholstered pieces feature solid colors or simple patterns that are easy to coordinate. Camelback silhouettes with exposed frames and feet, Lawson-style sofas with loose, square cushions and many leather pieces fit into the transitional category.

Shaker styling, with its straightforward, unadorned lines, exemplifies transitional wooden furniture. Mission or Arts & Crafts furnishings, featuring heavy squared forms, exposed joinery and wrought iron accents, are also well suited to a transitional décor.

Open floor plans (in which one room flows into the other, such as a kitchen to a family room) and rooms that are multipurpose (such as a living room that doubles as a home office space) are particularly well suited to transitional furniture, which can easily create a sense of continuity from one room to the next.

Choosing an overall style establishes harmony and unity throughout the home. However, you can still create a custom look for individual rooms through different color schemes and with accents such as collections, artwork or themes from nature, sports or even a favorite hobby. Once you’ve decided on a style, you’re ready to move forward with your decorating plan.

COURTESY: Lacy Roberts
Havertys Furniture Co.
www.havertys.com

Creating Outdoor Rooms



Here comes the season for outdoor entertaining when we all want our porches, patios and gardens to feel like outdoor rooms. You don't need new furniture! Great candles and candleholders are the smart, affordable secret for creating fabulous ambiance al fresco. These items from PartyLite do the trick.

Hexagon Holders

Contemporary versatile design offers beautiful options - the **Hexagon Three-Wick Holder** holds a big, bold three-wick candle on one side. Flip it over, and it holds a gorgeous light show of seven tealights. Experiment with multiple candle heights using a round pillar in the **Hexagon Pillar Holder** and colorful tealights in a tropical fruit or floral fragrance in several single matching holders.



Rustic Rock Candle Set

Candles that think they're rocks! These uniquely-shaped stone-colored candles "tunnel" as they burn leaving an exterior shell. A perfect expression of today's huge trend toward environmental decor!



Linear Lites Collection

Contemporary and elegantly shaped, these black metal candleholders bring instant chic to any outdoor table setting. **Linear Lites Pillar Holders** come in several heights and hold multiple types of candles for versatile decorating. The **Linear Lites Votive Pair** creates a dazzling glow with its smoky-color glass. Lighting the way to the party on the patio are **Linear Lites Hanging Votive Lanterns** on **Shepherd's Hook Garden Stakes**.



COURTESY: Jill Roe
PartyLite
www.partylite.com