With the onset of the holiday season, the walls and mantles look bare without decorations to set a festive mood. But rather than pulling down the dusty box of decorations from years past, try these suggestions from Asheville's bed and breakfasts and inns.

Each year Asheville's bed and breakfasts and inns decorate with fervor for the holidays to prepare for their yuletide guests. Some even open their doors to the public to show off their decorations. These inns and others share their decorating ideas throughout the season on this site.

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[**Carolina Bed and Breakfast**](http://web.archive.org/web/20060406013725/http:/www.exploreasheville.com/accommodations.asp?d=%7bD7C65038-6627-4269-96FA-320D8405A204%7d&ac=3)  
Sue Birkholz

* During the holiday season, a beautiful mantelpiece is something your guests can appreciate. Fill the mantel with plenty of glittering leaves and various evergreen branches and then add an assortment of candles. The taller candle holders might have pine branches running up the length, while the shorter candles get nestled in the leaves. The idea is to have an undulating mixture of light all made safe by making sure the candles are not in direct contact with the greenery.

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[**At Cumberland Falls Bed & Breakfast**](http://web.archive.org/web/20060406013725/http:/www.exploreasheville.com/accommodations.asp?d=%7b04D228D8-4D8D-4AC2-8A10-BC113AA812B8%7d&ac=3)  
Patti Wiles

* During the holiday season, especially as friends visit and gather to share food and friendship, a beautiful table is something guests appreciate. An inexpensive, yet beautiful, idea is to place mirrors on your table. Then scatter iridescent or opalescent confetti on the glass mirror. Scatter a few small, white votive candles in shallow holders about the mirrors. The reflection will bring magic to the season.

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[**Bent Creek Lodge**](http://web.archive.org/web/20060406013725/http:/www.exploreasheville.com/accommodations.asp?d=%7bE86F651B-E47D-48A3-B94E-36C60EC3CFC2%7d&ac=3)  
Jodee Sellers

* Quick, easy and naturally elegant - Spray long strands of ivy with gold spray paint. Drape on your Christmas tree as a garland, use on the mantle for color in evergreens and use in table centerpieces. Lasts four to five weeks.

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[**Owl's Nest Inn at Engadine**](http://web.archive.org/web/20060406013725/http:/www.exploreasheville.com/accommodations.asp?d=%7bFEC174DE-4078-4FE8-95C5-A8B4C59EF774%7d&ac=3)  
Marg Dente & Gail Kinney

* Place white, clear lights on your Christmas tree. Place at least 12 plain silver balls as close to the trunk of the tree as possible, all the way from top to bottom. Complete the decorating of your tree as usual. When the lights are turned on, the silver balls reflect the lights making it look as if the tree is full of lights.

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[**Richmond Hill Inn**](http://web.archive.org/web/20060406013725/http:/www.exploreasheville.com/accommodations.asp?d=%7b58D33F57-268E-4677-BF7E-7579F1A2FF97%7d&ac=3)  
Hunter Stubbs, Head Horticulturist

* For an easy holiday centerpiece to complement the cuisine, Hunter Stubbs, head horticulturist at Richmond Hill Inn, suggest making a natural arrangement. You'd be surprised what you can find in your own back yard and at the grocery store. Evergreen holly heavy with red berries and conifers such as hemlock and red cedar work especially well. Lemons and oranges mixed with evergreens add bright color, and you can use excess cuttings from your Christmas tree to fill in. Try using kumquats or fresh red roses as small ornaments on a Styrofoam cone covered with boxwood cuttings. Whatever you choose, you can't go wrong. Natural materials look great any way you use them.