



# Coastal Grower

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# Winter Home Design and Styling Tips and Tricks for Your Home

By Annee Martin



**W**e are blessed to have a moderate winter on the Monterey Peninsula compared to many other areas of the country that experience frigid temperatures along with snow and grey skies.

Where we live along the central coast and even in the inland areas, we do experience a definite drop in temperature, shorter daylight, as well as major rain and windstorms that drive people inside.

The secret to decorating your home is thinking “cozy, warmth, and comfort.”

While it does not make sense to change out your furniture every time the seasons change, it is easy enough to add and swap out smaller accents that improve the overall feeling of warmth as well as providing actual physical warmth.

Starting with the outside entrance, try swapping your doormat for a more seasonal one with a fun saying such as “Come in and Cozy Up.” Hanging a seasonal wreath that has greens, pines, berries, and cones is associated

with the winter season.

In the main living area, rearrange your furniture to be closer to the fireplace, creating a more intimate cozy gathering space as well

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as reducing drafts from windows and doors. Electric fireplaces that are energy-efficient, put out heat and add to that cozy warm feeling, are great alternatives if you do not have a fireplace.

Adding throw rugs such as shag or faux sheepskins feel great on the feet and look warm and inviting. Poufs with texture on the floor are easy to move in and out of the seating area and are an easy way to create more seating.

Changing out pillows is one of the most affordable and easy ways to bring cozy,

comfort and warmth into your home, especially with materials such as fur, fleece, and pillows with texture. Stores such as Pottery Barn and Williams Sonoma have end-of-year sales and you can purchase the pillow cover only and use your existing pillows as the insert, which saves on both storage space and money.

When thinking of your existing color palette, use different shades of neutral tones paired with warm colors. All of this can be easily attained by swapping out blankets, throws, bedding, pillows and rugs.

Throws in warm winter colors and fabrics add to both the overall feeling and physical warmth. These can be layered over sofas, chairs, benches and on beds. A textured basket filled with lots of assorted throws allows for family members and guests to hang out, at the same time keeping heat costs down. These are easy to swap out throughout the year.

Changing your bedding from lightweight sheets and duvets to warmer fabrics such as flannel and fleece can cozy up your bedroom.

Spending more time inside is the perfect opportunity to read. Create your own cozy vignette by placing your favorite chaise or chair and ottoman facing outside. Add a warm throw along with a side table stacked with your favorite books and magazines and





you will be beckoned to come sit and read, especially if the weather is rainy and stormy outside.

Adding rustic wood accents to the dining and living areas, such as bowls, placemats, and table arrangements conjures up images of being in a log cabin or ski resort.

Lighting is one of the most important underestimated changes that you can do to add warmth and ambience to the home. Avoid using those glaring overhead lights, and if you must, then use dimmers. Create layers with floor lamps and table lamps and sconces. Just make sure you use a warm LED or incandescent lightbulb less than 4,000 lumens.

***These simple and inexpensive tips should help make your home warm, comfy and cozy during the winter months.***

Battery-operated candles with remotes are one of the best purchases you can make. They are easy to turn on and off and can immediately transform a room into a warm and inviting space. Try grouping them on a coffee table or buffet table or in a non-operating fireplace and they will provide a magical glow. These can be placed all throughout the home, including the bathroom.

Diffusers with the smell of evergreen or the pine forest helps keep that warm holiday feeling alive as we go through the winter months.

In our area, we are still able to enjoy the outdoors, so adding a firepit or fireplace as well as stringing patio lights and having a good

supply of “comfy” fleece wearable blankets ensures warmth and comfort even when it is nippy outdoors. Being inside and looking out at the warmly lit backyard helps create a cozy warm feeling while inside.

Being able to acknowledge and differentiate the winter season from the other three seasons is especially important in the area we live in for both physical and psychological reasons. We are fortunate that we do not have to endure the extreme temperature changes that many parts of the country experience, but there is a part in each of us that deep

down likes the changing of the seasons, which is usually expressed through pumpkins, Thanksgiving and Christmas décor. Many of us have memories of winter and that cozy feeling you got with hot chocolate, warm mittens, and scarves.

These simple and inexpensive tips should help make your home warm, comfy and cozy during the winter months. And when the hills are emerald green and the days are longer again, it will be time to put away the winter décor for a rainy day and welcome spring. ☁



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