



## INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE ONLINE

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### Host a House Decor Swapping Party

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What could be better than this? Imagine an afternoon hanging out with friends, an excuse to clean your closet and some great new free decor for your home. Bargain shopping has never been so much fun and so cheap!

You can easily coordinate a house decor swapping party with friends, and you and your guests will walk away with some great new items. Here are step by step instructions for organizing this ultra fun event.

1. Pick a date at least two or three weeks in advance to give your guests time to look through their house for things to bring. Send out an e-invitation to your guest list and be sure to include the following information; date, time, location and details of the party.
2. Here are the pre-party details to include in your invitation. Ask that every guest look through their home for any decorating items that they no longer like or use. The decor can be gently used or brand new as most of us have purchased something for our home that we liked until we actually brought it home.
3. Request that each person bring 7 to 12 items for best results. On the invitation provide idea suggestions for specific items to help your guests in the decision out what to bring. Suggested items include throw rugs, throw pillows, bedding, accessories, decorative towels, art, containers and other vessels, even a never used gallon of paint.
4. To set up the party is simple. You need a large size room and some fold out tables to display the items your guests bring. If you do not have access to tables, a clean floor will work as well. Clear the room of any of you personal decorative items so there is no confusion about items up for grabs. Consider serving some light snacks for a festive and fun party mood.
5. As guests arrive, ask them to display their items on the tables you set out. If you are having a large number of guests (10 or over), you will want to label the tables with specific categories of the decorative items. Use the same category names as you did on your invitation of suggested items to bring.
6. Have each guest place their name in a bowl. When you are ready to start the swap, pull the first name out of the bowl. That person is the first to select one item they would like from the lot of decorative items. Continue by pulling the second name and continue the process until everyone has a turn. The second round of selections begins by starting the name drawing over with a new order. This allows so someone who selected toward the end last time the possibly an earlier pick. Keep the process going until there are no items left, or no one wants any of the remaining items.
7. If there are leftovers, you can have fun as a group awarding certain unwanted décor a title such as tackiest accessory or most dated throw pillow. This part of the party is hilarious.
8. When the party is over, call a local thrift store to pick up the remaining pieces to be given to charity.

This party is a win-win for everyone involved. Not only will you and your guests have a great time, you will have an opportunity to pick up some "new" to you items for your house. Plus, in the process everyone cleans out their house of things they no longer want. Give this party a try; it may be the most fun you ever have bargain shopping and you won't even need to bring your purse.