



organo
Et
School

SUSTAINABLE FESTIVE DECOR

Festivals are the time of celebration of life with our near and dear ones. It gives us an opportunity to celebrate in harmony with our nature. How do we do that?

Get creative with Sustainable decor!

website: <https://www.organoetschool.co.in/>

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WHY SHOULD WE CHOOSE SUSTAINABLE DECOR?

The festival season brings joy and with it a hint of nostalgia. Everyone looks forward to the festivities and decorating of our homes, but we tend to underestimate the wastage created by these decorative items and the resources used in making them. In these recent years, we have realised that the lights in the sky came with a price and crackers were crossed off the Diwali shopping list. But we realised we could take it a step further.

Instead of choosing decorations that take years to degrade, we can opt for biodegradable decor. Instead of going overboard with our festive decorations, It's time we start analysing how much decor is actually needed.



How to get started with Sustainable Decor?

This year before you start your festive planning, stand in the middle of the room you are planning on decorating and understand it's space and dimensions. Try to analyse how much each space really needs to be decorated. We realised that in a standard apartment, a room needed no more than three diyas and maybe just the balcony needed one set of string lights. The rangoli may be limited to one or maybe two attraction centres of the house and that was it!

Now you can make a precise list of the number of items you need and cautiously purchase just that many. This way you avoid the haphazard of the shopping day and also let the earth know you care.



If we aim to lead a sustainable lifestyle then we need to include sustainability not just in our daily life but also when we are celebrating. Before thinking about bigger events we should practice being sustainable in our homes during festivals and what better than to start with the decor.



Light up diyas

While celebrating major festivals in our country, lights play a huge significance. Diwali being one of the major festivals in India is based on the philosophy of “good over evil” with light denoting the good and positive things in life. Hence it comes as no surprise that while decorating for festivals, lighting is the main attribute. But it's important to maintain a balance between following traditions and consumption of resources. A very simple way of doing that is using diyas to decorate our homes and reducing the use of artificial lights.

But if you do want to decorate your balcony with a small rope of string lights to give that extra bling, then try to invest in an energy efficient light that can be used for a longer period of time.



Diyas made out of clay generate minimal waste and also help in supporting local artisans and vendors. But it's also important to know the source of the diyas, fancy colourful alternatives are easily misunderstood for sustainable ones. The decorative colourful diyas are difficult to reuse and convert back into clay as they are covered with layers of colours made out of chemicals which are harmful to the environment when discarded. Alternatively there are a lot of new sustainable options like diyas made out of cow dung which are easy to discard and decay.



A Fragrant spectacle

Replace one time use and throw rangoli colours with flowers. There are some exquisite designs that can be put together using flowers and mango leaves to make a more fragrant and greener spectacle. It is a charming addition to your Diwali decor and can be easily disposed in a compost bin the next day. These flowers can be home grown, a lovely symbol of a home's nurturing power. They can also be bought by local vendors, hence, supporting them and aiding a more eco-friendly alternative.



Steer clear of plastic flowers, these have an infamous way of making it into a shopping cart, being hardly used and eventually sticking around for centuries on the earth. Some cultures in India use sugarcane and banana leaves and stems as a part of the puja, a wonderful tradition that must be upheld but also seen through. Make sure you either consume the sugarcane, or use the banana leaves to serve Diwali delicacies or decompose the remains.



Upcycle Decorations

The lifecycle of a cloth in an Indian household is probably prolonged for as long as possible. From a premium outerwear clothing it makes its way to being a rag cloth used for Diwali cleaning. There are some more innovative ways to add to this cycle. You can use old dupattas, sarees or clothes to sew bags to fill with gifts or even use them to wrap gifts. Use last year's decorations cleverly, play around with arrangements and placements.



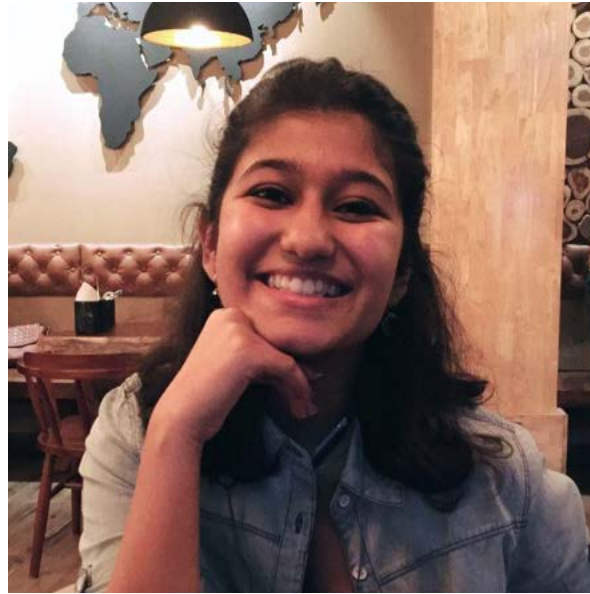
While buying new decorations, be mindful of the source of these items. There are some companies and organisations that are working towards more sustainable festive items. One such is Phool, they make incense cones and sticks out of recycled temple flowers. They also support an all women team who hand roll these organic products. Brands like Rickshaw Recycle and Oh Scrap! Madras provide eco-friendly and recycled home decor products.

We often get carried away by the festive spirit and tend to overlook the aftermath of our actions. It is normal to get excited and go big during festivals but it's important to remember the significance of these celebrations.

Festivals and celebrations are all about happiness & sharing that happiness which can be done with fewer fancy decorations and more sharing by being considerate of the environment and the future generations.



Author's note



Nishitha Vivek

Nishitha is a food enthusiast with a flair for baking. She believes that food is an edible story that brings people together and aspires to do exactly that with her co- founded food blog, Knife & Spatula. Being an aspiring restaurateur, she aims to bring her life experiences and passion together on a plate, and live life one meal at a time.

Author's note



Mansi Swami

Mansi is a quintessential 20s woman who takes life by the horns. Although she always has one foot in the archaic world of sacred Rajasthani recipes, she moves with today's times and applies her creativity in digital platforms. IT Engineer by education, she has co-founded a food blog, Knife & Spatula and a t-shirt venture The May Circle. She lives by the motto of making the world a happier place than she found it.

Organo Et School

Organo Et School is the brainchild of team Organo. Organo was founded on the idea of environmentally conscious living and Organo Et School translates that idea into reality by educating and empowering schools, colleges, organizations and communities on the triple bottom line of sustainability. Organo et School aims at engaging individuals of today to stay connected with nature through workshops, live sessions and site visits.



Leading the change

We create an experiential learning environment for people to learn from.

Organo Et School educates people about the challenges of sustainable development and creates opportunities for them to use their creativity and knowledge to pioneer innovative solutions for themselves.

Learners develop a sense of place and belonging to their local community.

**NURTURING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS
WHERE INCLUSIVE HOLISTIC ECO-LIVING IS CELEBRATED**

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