

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

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## Make your home an autumn oasis

By Amanda Eck



*Photo provided*

I love when the sun starts to set a little earlier and my thoughts turn to warm blankets, comfort food, and lazy rainy Sundays (hoping to see some much needed rain this fall). Even though our family schedule seems to pick up during the autumn months – basketball practice, after school activities, etc. – we try to take time in the evenings to slow down. We even have an 8 p.m. no electronics rule when school starts (that includes Mom and Dad). This helps us as a family focus on spending time reading, playing board games, or sneaking in a cup of hot cocoa before bed. I truly enjoy making our home cozy and inviting so we can be reminded to take time and enjoy one another during the autumn season and rest up before the crazies of the holidays hit.

Here are five of my favorite ways to summon autumn's splendor:

**1) Fall Foliage:** Once the trees start to turn to shades of orange and red I love to trim a few branches and bring them in. Now here in the Bay Area that might not happen until November, so I do have a few faux branches on hand I use in September and October. Local craft stores like Hobby Lobby or Michael's are great places to shop for faux branches. Try to look for stems that are realistic and avoid fake flowers. Instead, look for branches with leaves, seed pods, or small acorns on them. And of course once the leaves start to change grab your clippers and head outside.

**2) Candles:** If you asked my husband he would tell you I am a candle hoarder. I love candles. I especially love yummy fall scented candles. Pumpkin spice, cinnamon, and anything that smells like coffee! I also keep a stash of unscented candles. They make great accents for dinner parties or scattered through out the house to bring in a warm glow as the sun starts to set. If I had my way, our home would only be lit by candles when the sun sets – no lamps for me!

**3) Fresh gourds and mini pumpkins:** I was at Safeway last week and they already had their mini pumpkins out, so grab them while you can. Place mini gourds and pumpkins on the entry table or on your coffee table gathered in a bowl. If orange is not your color, try using the white mini-boo pumpkins; they coordinate with any décor from contemporary to farmhouse. And don't forget your front porch; large pumpkins are not just for Halloween anymore.

**4) Fuzzy throws:** I love to bring out the blankets when the temps begin to dip in the evenings. Pottery Barn has some beautiful cashmere blankets in warm autumn colors.

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