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### **Change Fireplace Décor with the Season**

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If the fireplace seems depressingly bare after holiday decorations are put away, consider updating the look of both the fireplace itself and its surrounding space to reflect the changing seasons. According to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA), there are many creative ways to bring new magic to a fireplace and make it an appealing focal point year-round.

“The fireplace is the center of many homes and is frequently the focal point for the room décor,” said Carter Keithley, CEO and president of the HPBA. “As such, it is important to invest a little time and effort to give your fireplace a fresh, inviting look throughout the year.”

In the spirit of television shows like *Trading Spaces* or *While You Were Out*, the HPBA offers a few tips to help people implement seasonal fireplace decorating.

**Winter:** During the months when the fireplace is used most often, add a practical accessory such as a firescreen, tool set, or log carrier – even with a gas fireplace. These accessories are available in many finishes, such as pewter, graphite, chrome, brushed steel and hammer-tone iron. Other winter fireplace accessories include decorative rugs to protect the area in front of a wood burning fireplace, and CDs that provide an authentic crackling sound to enhance the appeal of a gas fireplace.

**Spring:** As the weather warms, replace the metal firescreen in front of the fireplace with a decorative wood or fabric fireplace screen. This style of accessory often features artistically painted designs or glass etchings, and can be like adding a painting or a work of art to a home. Placing a candelabrum with seasonal candles within the firebox is another way to add dimension to a bare wood burning fireplace during the spring months.

**Summer:** Summer is the time to consider a major remodel to the fireplace exterior. For example, it’s easy to replace the existing mantel with a new model in a different type of wood or stone. Or, paint the mantel (or the wall behind) in a hue that is dramatically different from the room’s color palette, and install a new set of glass fireplace doors will help keep cold air from seeping back into the room when fall approaches.

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**Fall:** As the weather cools and all attention turns to heat, consider adding a fireplace accessory that provides beauty as well as function, like a fireback. This sculptured accent is affixed to the back wall of a fireplace and protects the firebox while radiating heat into the room. Used with wood fires or gas logs, firebacks are an old tradition that will bring visual interest to a hearth whether a fire is burning or not.

Along with adding fireplace accessories, it's fun to update the entire area around the fireplace each season to maximize visual interest. Ideas include replacing a painting above the mantel with a mirror, adding new plants (such as topiary during the winter or an orchid during the summer), and changing mantel decorations to complement the fireplace accessories highlighted during a particular season.

To help determine which fireplace accessories best fit the style of a home, or for practical information on how to accessorize a particular fireplace, visit a specialty retailer. For a free fact sheet on "Tips for Accessorizing a Fireplace," or to locate a specialty retailer, go to the Consumer Section on the HPBA Web site at [www.hpba.org](http://www.hpba.org).

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#### **About the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association**

The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA), based in Arlington, Va., is the North American industry association for manufacturers, retailers, distributors, representatives, service firms and allied associates for all types of hearth, barbecue and patio appliances, fuels and accessories. The association provides professional member services and industry support in education, statistics, government relations, marketing, advertising and consumer education. There are more than 2,500 members in the HPBA.