

## Let's Vase It

Vases are a popular decorative accessory. Every size, shape, pattern, texture and color has its place, but don't underestimate the dramatic statement a large vase can make. Regardless of your decor or preferred method of decorating, an oversized vase will enhance your interior design.

Natural materials are a key element to home design, creating positive Feng Shui, or balance between the hard manufactured elements of a vase and the softness of nature. Whether you prefer long stemmed flowers (yes, artificial is okay, especially if you have allergies), dried sticks or twine, tall bamboo grass, or whatever your imagination can provide, your vase is the perfect container to hold and display many beautiful and natural objects. Try to contrast the vase and contents. If your vase is a darker color, insert lighter colored flowers or objects. If your vase is a lighter color, try brighter but not necessarily darker colored contents. The darker color could make the arrangement appear top heavy, while a brighter flower will add a burst of attention.

Modernists or contemporary minded designers may consider a single, long stemmed flower bent over the top of the vase. Many contemporary designs are so interesting they may also be treated as self-standing works of art. Sometimes adding flowers or other contents takes away from the clean simplicity of the contemporary style. It may be difficult for some traditionalists to see any vase empty, no matter how unique it may be.

Keep in mind that glass vases look beautiful on mantles or a table, but aren't well suited for floors. However, a large decorated vase can look stunning when showcased in a foyer or hallway. Currently popular are the multi-colored, foil-look vases. The production process for this type of vase usually includes a ceramic base which is covered in microscopically thin random layers of foil, which is then lacquered for a shiny, finished look.

Consider converting a large floor vase into an umbrella stand for your hallway or foyer.

Medium sized vases look great when placed above a fireplace.

Experiment with filling a large see-through/clear vase with colored glass, rocks, or marbles. You can find these for cheap at any local dollar store. For a gravity defying look, place a layer of hydrated beads/water balls in the bottom of a clear vase. Add a layer of stones (pick your favorite color). Repeat with another layer of water beads and stones. Add water and the beads disappear, making the stones look as though they're floating in air.