



MAKE YOUR OWN LANTERN



With the festival of lights around the corner, we're sure you're scouting for various ways to light up your home. **Henna Achhpal** and **Rhea Dhanbhora** show you how you can make a basic lantern in four simple steps...

TISSUE LANTERN Save: In the market, the lantern will cost you about ₹500 but when you make it yourself, you save at least ₹200 if you use materials lying around your home.



YOU WILL NEED

One meter of tissue material, two aluminum rings, strips of lace, strong glue, scissors, a string of fairy lights. You can use them in whatever colours you desire.



STEP 1

Depending on the transparency you want, fold the material into a double layer and then glue both ends of the material firmly to the aluminum rings.



STEP 2

After you have neatly glued the ends of the material to both the aluminum rings, you should have a soft, cylindrical lantern ready. Allow it to dry for a few hours.



STEP 3

You can add extra finishing touches as well as embellishments of your choice such as beads or lace to the bottom end of the cylindrical lantern.



STEP 4

Once the lantern is ready, all you need to do is insert the lights. **Tip:** While sticking on the handle, twine lights around it for a more festive look and feel.

LIGHT IT UP

You don't need to spend tons of money on decorative lights from the market. There are a lot of innovative ways you can brighten up your home this Diwali by getting creative with household items:

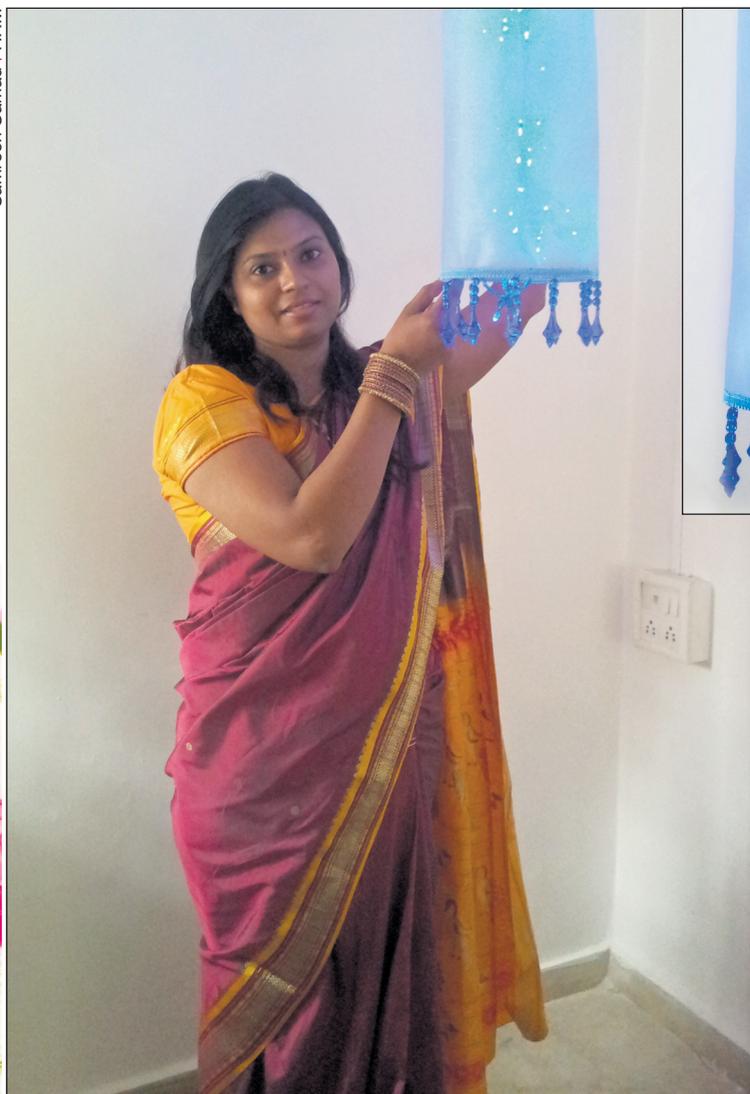
PLANTS: If you have a lot of plants in your home or by your window, you can simply wrap fairy lights around them for a beautiful effect.

WINE BOTTLES: If you have empty wine bottles in different colours (green, transparent, maroon) lying around, simply fill them in with white fairy lights and watch them create beautiful shadows.

FLOATING CANDLES: This is the most beautiful way to add light to your living room. Take a large glass bowl, fill it with water and fresh flowers and add a few floating diyas.



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>> Make the lantern the length of your choice and adorn the handle with fairy lights for a completely festive feel

DECORATING FOR DIWALI

It's not just about diyas and fairy lights this Diwali. Here are some other ways you can lend colour and festivity to your home this season:

Torans: You can place torans above your door, around photo frames or even near your window. While traditional torans are made of mango leaves and marigold flowers, you can get yourself embellished ones with things such as beads, sequins and mirror work or even shells and coloured paper. They look pretty and will last the entire season.

Lamps: You don't have to add lanterns and lights to your home. Instead, dress up existing light fixtures for an easy but colourful way to stay festive. Either purchase colourful lampshades or, if yours aren't too expensive, stick on some coloured paper, beads or sequins for a kitschy, festive touch.

Wall hangings: Wall hangings can be placed and removed with ease and are a big fixture for Diwali. Hangings with an ethnic touch or embossed with images of gods and goddesses are a good bet this season.

Rangoli: Traditional Rangoli designs will make any home look colourful, bright and festive. Buy a stencil and just fill in with colour if you're not confident of your artistic skills. Dress up the rangoli with some diyas for that ultimate festive feel.

Colourful cushions: Make sure that your home is filled with colourful fabrics this season. You don't have to buy expensive decorations to make your home look festive if you dress it up with some glossy, coloured cushions and patterned curtains.