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OUR HOMES



This is a simple display trick for cards in tight quarters. Buy a pack of clothes pins and twine, attach with thumb tacks and voila – display!

One simple display trick is to attach close pins on twine draped on a pin board, tack onto ribbon tails from a hanging wreath, or display on mirrored trays and cookie trays to work piles of cards into your existing decor.

Once the holidays are over, set aside a day or section of hours to really go through things like addresses, names of children and relationship status updates. By taking the time in January to follow up on those things, next year won't seem so daunting. If you are the address label type, update and date your file so you know which is the latest version.

**3. Curate the years.** One of my favorite things to do is maintain copies of the cards that mean a great deal to us, and still recycle the

materials. You can scan, photocopy and photograph cards and notes. Scanning is the best, in my opinion, but it can take some time. Lining up the cards and snapping quick photos is much more efficient, but not as polished in the end.

You can then import into a file for rotating picture frames, which are particularly nice for relatives and elderly friends living in nursing homes or adult care facilities. They love to see the family and friends over the years. I have found, while I love the photo books, the frames are much easier to edit. You can even overlay the names of people on photos before uploading.

The photo book is nice, and I have sev-



Look for interesting letter openers all year round at antique fairs and home stores. I tend to collect them because they make great hostess gifts when wine isn't appropriate and I love displaying them on trays in the front hall or on my desk. Here is the classic Tiffany, which can be engraved.

eral friends who do this every year.

4. Recycle. These holiday cards generate a lot of potential waste. What do we do? We shred. And we use the shredding all year for shipping. Envelopes with foil are the best.

Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a



With Couture Chateau, there are times we ship out products to clients and you will find our artfully shredded cards in the box. It breaks my heart to simply throw them away, and this is a great, easy way to repurpose the materials.

For more ways to reuse the cards be sure to download the Holiday Card Helps. As always, my hope, stylish suburbanite, is that you find peace and joy this season, and that the new year brings you much happiness.

I source baskets at stores like Home Goods, Cost Plus and even OSH. Simply change out bows for the season. I like



this shape because it holds the large cards easily and doesn't take up too much counter space like a large flat basket does.

luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog Do you want your holiday decor to make your home feel welcoming yet still look like a top designer did the finishing touches? Join me for Stress Free Holiday Home at www.stressfreeholidayhome.com.



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