

5 Steps to Create a Fresh, Farmhouse Feel



While I wouldn't call my style purely "farmhouse," I do have a love for the classic, timeless charm that the "farmhouse" style embodies. And though my house is on more than an acre in the Texas hill country, it is a 1990's traditional home - hardly a darling farmhouse. But I think the farmhouse charm can be brought into almost any space and style with a few simple elements.

~Rachel Paxton

TIP 1: Use lots of white

It doesn't have to be walls and furniture... Consider other textiles: pillows, throws, even rugs with whites in the pattern can brighten a space.



And, of course, there's always white bedding... And white paint.

Tip 2: Embrace the distressed look

Whether its authentically old and worn or a faux finish, a little age adds so much character. And there are so many ways to create that look yourself! My shoe box that I modeled after an antique firewood box and built to fit our space (building plans and tutorial [HERE](#)) is one of my favorite pieces. You can get the full tutorial [HERE](#) for that gorgeous, layered, chippy paint look, too. Everyone who sees it in person has a hard time believing it's not a real antique.



But it doesn't always take lots of layers and effort, you can see how I refinished the mirror above the mantel in just one step [HERE](#).

Tip 3: Layer high end and low end

Even in the most utilitarian farmhouses, there were usually one or two cherished heirlooms passed down over the years. Having those slightly "fancier" pieces of furniture or art work that may not read "farmhouse" initially actually creates a more authentic, layered look. This French dining set that belonged to my great grandmother is a perfect example. I refinished it to fit my taste better (full tutorial [HERE](#)), but I love how the curvy, elegant lines complement the straight, simple, primitive look of the shoe box I built and the old bench we use in there.



Tip 4: Bring some green inside

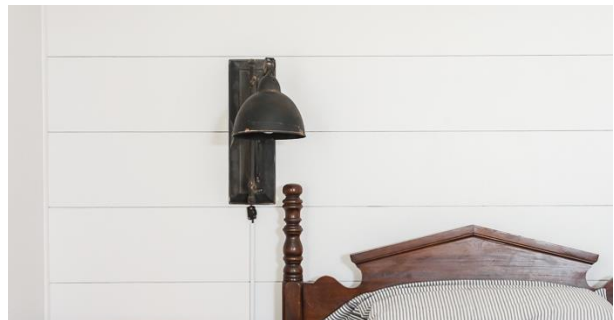
Remember, farmhouses are lived in by farmers (profound, I know)... Loving earth and life is part of the job description. I love faux plants like this DIY eucalyptus wreath (tutorial [HERE](#)) I made...



And real plants like my fiddle leaf fig trees (which I found a few years ago on clearance at a garden store; they looked pretty sad, but for \$8.95 I couldn't pass them up!).

Tip 5: Add some architectural detail

We recently added a plank wall in my son's room (tutorial [HERE](#)), and I'm smitten. I also love the wainscoting in my half bath (tutorial [HERE](#)), which I highlighted by painting it gray.



Whether it's shiplap, board and batten, wainscoting, a planked ceiling, or other trim work, it adds so much character to a home and allows a space to have more room to breathe without looking naked.

I can't help but laugh at how funny it sounds to personify a room like that, but I think it's true: the charm of a farmhouse feel is found in the simple life in a space: the stories, the memories, the light, the freshness...