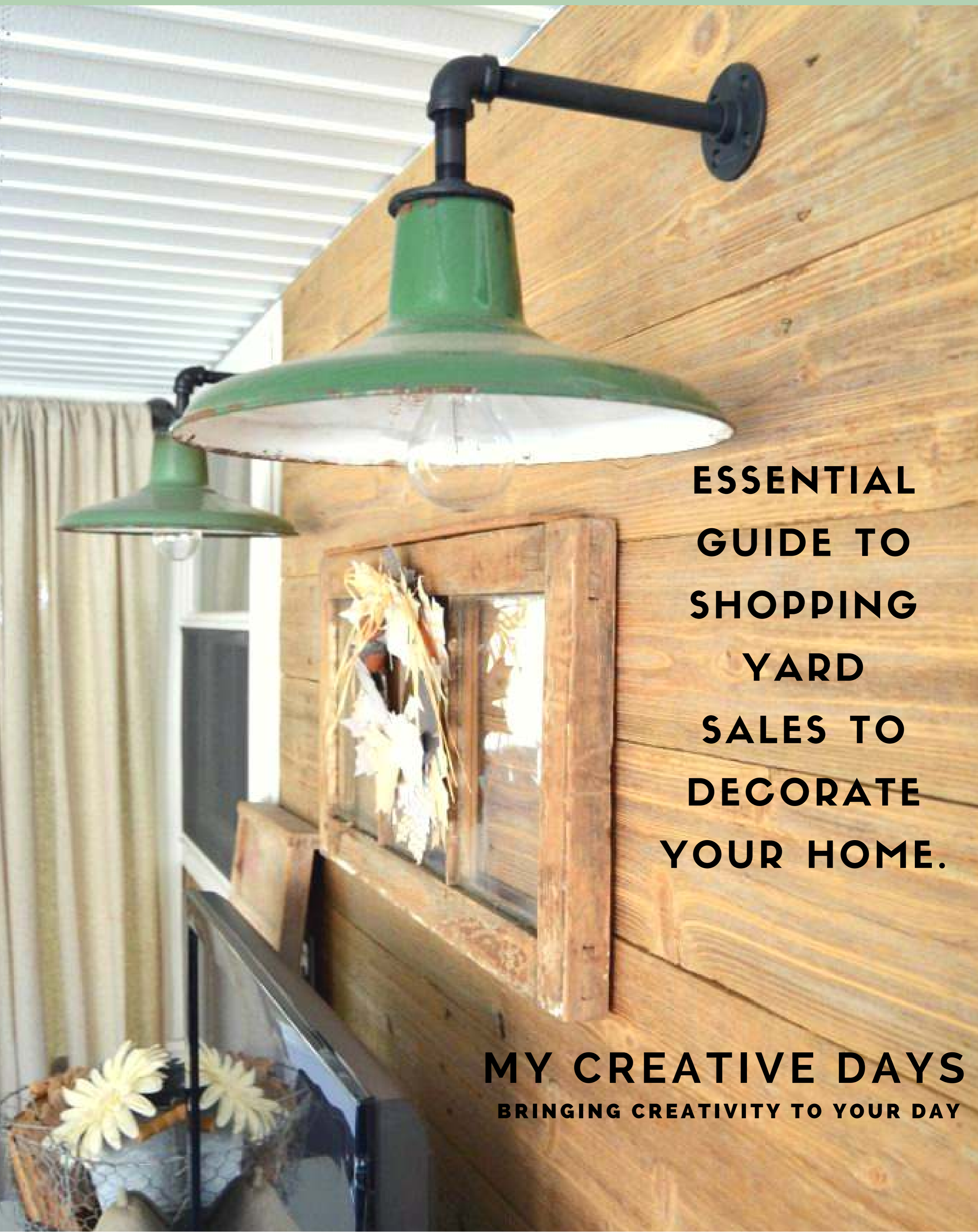


HOW TO DECORATE YOUR HOME

on a yard sale budget



**ESSENTIAL
GUIDE TO
SHOPPING
YARD
SALES TO
DECORATE
YOUR HOME.**

MY CREATIVE DAYS
BRINGING CREATIVITY TO YOUR DAY

QUICK YARD SALE TIPS



Early Bird Gets The Worm: To get the best stuff, you have to be at yard sales when they open.



Research: Go through yard sale ads in the newspaper and online to find which sales are worth your time and which ones you can skip.



Plan a Route: The night before, plan a route so you aren't wasting time getting from one sale to the other.



Bring a List: Bring a list of what you are looking for.



Measurements: Bring measurements for specific pieces you are searching for.

Cash: Bring small and large bills.

Clear Out Your Vehicle: You need ample room to get your treasures home.

Negotiate: Be ready and willing to negotiate.
ALWAYS!



WHY YARD SALES?

For the past gazillion years, I have been shopping yard sales. When Matt and I bought our first home, I fell in love with decorating it. I wanted to have the things in our home that I saw in all my favorite magazine and catalogs, but we didn't have the budget for it. That didn't stop me. I was determined to find a way to have a beautiful home on our tiny budget. That's when yard sales became my favorite decorating tool.

When we bought the home we live in now from the original owners, I was so excited to put our stamp on it. Over the years, I have refined my style and the way I want our home to look and feel and I have done it all with the help of yard sales, thrift stores and curbside finds.

When we have people come into our home for the first time, they always ask me where I found certain pieces. It is so much fun to have a story behind every single piece in our home. There is so much character here that I get super excited to share it. I also love to tell them how much I actually spent too!

Yard sales have made our home comfortable, cozy and full of charm. Yard sales have enabled me to decorate our home with all the pretty things I see in my favorite stores, websites and magazines, but it also enables me to keep most of my money in my pocket. My Creative Days was born on this frugal decoarting notion and I am so thankful I get to share my tips and tricks with my readers every day.



NEGOTIATING TIPS

This one is simple, but sometimes hard to actually deliver. Any time you are at a yard sale, be ready to negotiate the price of what you are buying. When I started shopping yard sales, I didn't negotiate. If something was priced too high, I just didn't buy it. Then, I would think about that piece for days and get so upset because I let it go. That doesn't happen anymore.

Now, I am a negotiating machine. Okay, maybe I shouldn't go that far, but I am not scared to do it. People having yard sales want to get rid of their stuff. When I negotiate a better price, I feel better about buying and the sellers are happy to see their pieces gone. It's a win-win.

Negotiating can be uncomfortable at first, but if you try a few of these tips, it gets easier.

Start small: Find a few decor pieces you would love to have in your home and ask the sellers if they will take a dollar less than it is marked. Do that a few times and then you can move on to bigger pieces with bigger price tags.

The Pile: A lot of times, when I am at a yard sale and see one good thing, I find more great stuff I want to buy. When this happens, I start a pile. As I am adding things to the pile, I add the price up in my head. Once my pile is done, I ask for a lower price of the "pile". They are always so excited to see how much you are buying so they are happy to work with you.

YARD SALE TOOL BELT

Be prepared with the essentials



Tape Measure:

To measure the pieces you are looking for.

Your Address List: Write a list of the yard sales you are going to.

Your Shopping List:

Write down what you are searching for and any measurements you need.

Cross-body bag or

purse. If you don't carry money in your pockets, carry a bag that frees up both hands.

Change. It is always nice to have smaller bills and change so the sellers don't have to make change..

Smart Phone or Map.

You need to know how to get to the sales.

Truck. If you are planning on purchasing bigger pieces.

Patience: This is a must. Not all yard sales are good. Have patience and just keep going!

Open Mind: Bring an open mind. Think outside of the box. You can DIY anything to make it your own.





YARD SALE CHALLENGE

It is the time of year when yard sales are in full swing. If you don't have yard sales in your area, use these tips at a local thrift store which is another favorite place of mine to find amazing pieces for our home.

I would love to challenge you to venture out to a few yard sales after you read through this guide. Make sure you are equipped with the essentials! Share a photo on Instagram of your full vehicle, your favorite find or yourself hunting for treasures. Use the hashtag #mycreativedays so I can be sure to see your yard sale adventures!