

# Cozy up your surroundings with cottage style

Create a lived-in look that's full of charm

**W**ho can resist the casual comfort of a cottage filled with a cheerful assortment of furniture and accessories? It's easy to integrate this mix-and-match style into your current decor. To get the look quickly and easily, learn the five key elements of cottage style.

## Floors for less

Cottages often feature either stone or wide-plank wood floors. You can re-create the style without the expense by using realistic-looking laminate or vinyl flooring.

## Cottage style is eclectic

Decorating with an array of furniture and accessories offers plenty to look at. To make everything work together, choose pieces that are similar in color, finish or material.



▲ **Unify wall decor** by selecting frames that have a common element, like the gilt-finished models here. Save money by buying an assortment of frames at garage sales, then painting them all the same color.

Crawford frame, \$20, and bead accent frame, \$50; [www.target.com](http://www.target.com).



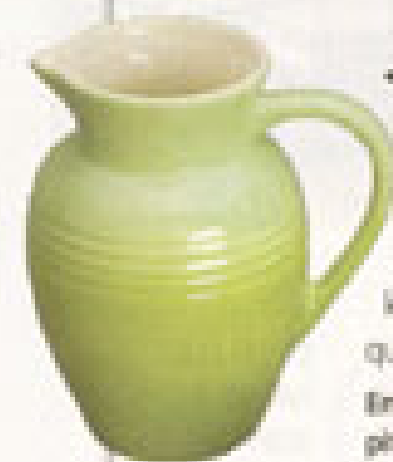
◀ **Combine natural wood chairs with painted ones.** Details such as spindle legs and open backs help unify a group of mismatched items.

Windsor side chair, \$250; [www.restorationhardware.com](http://www.restorationhardware.com).



◀ **Evoke a homey sense of simplicity** with an assortment of dishware styles and patterns.

Floral melamine plate, Modia Home, \$3 to \$5; [www.zipost.com](http://www.zipost.com).



◀ **Collect an assortment of accessories.** Displaying a variety of pottery and knickknacks adds quaint, quirky charm.

Enameled stoneware pitcher, \$35; [www.jecreuset.com](http://www.jecreuset.com).

### EXTRA TIP

**Use flower power.** To create a cottage-like ambiance, place flowers—either freshly cut or growing in pots—all around the house.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Time Inc., publisher of *As You*, also produces a magazine all about cottages called *Cottage Living*. Go to [www.cottageliving.com](http://www.cottageliving.com) for more information.