

8 ways to add
Farmhouse
French Style



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Farmhouse French
Style**

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Photographs by Anita Joyce

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What is Farmhouse French? That's what I call my style; throw in something chippy, rusty, casual, French, and voila, you've got Farmhouse French. I know a lot of people who want the look, but don't know where to start. And, most are on a budget and can't redo their entire house. So how do you add the look without breaking the bank?





The good news is that it's easy to add some small touches here and there that really make a difference. I remember when I first began adding these accents to my home, I just had a very few things here and there, but they somehow took center stage. I was so surprised to hear a friend describe my style as French, when the reality was I only had a few pieces of French furniture.

I would describe a Farmhouse French style as one that incorporates lots of natural elements and textures, with a little rust and chippy paint thrown in, curvy furniture, with some elegant items like silver and crystal.

Here are are my 8 Tips for adding Farmhouse French to your home.

1. Add rustic elements like wooden bowls, crates, trays, totes, or architectural elements.



Figure 1 Vintage German wood crate



Figure 2 French Graphic Print Lamp Shade

The crate is from [Décor Steals](#), but you can also find them at thrift stores and junk shops. One fabulous source for graphics is [The Graphics Fairy](#), and she has tips on how to use the graphics in your project.



Figure 3 My Study with lots of Authentic French Details

I used several items with French lettering in my study. They really give the room character and a French feel.



3. Pull out the vintage silver, no need to polish it.

Figure 4 Antique Silver Covered Butter Dish

Silver is one of my favorite elements to add to a room. Rather than buying new, go for vintage. Besides, new silver is difficult to find, and the quality doesn't seem to be there in newer pieces. You can find reasonably priced silver on eBay or at antique stores.



Figure 5 Vintage Silver Trophies

Trophies are especially hot right now, but quite difficult to find. I snagged these beauties at an antique auction.



Figure 6 Tarnished Silver Pitcher used to hold Utensils

Why not use a lovely silver pitcher to hold your wooden spoons in the kitchen?

4. Use textured fabric in the room, like burlap, linen, grain sacks, or drop cloth fabric.



Nubby linen, homespun linen, and grain sacks add texture and give an authentic feel to a room. I love the feel of linen, it is cool to the touch, and I love the way it hangs. It wrinkles very easily, so some people don't like it for that reason. For me, the wrinkles tell me it is real linen, and it adds an authenticity to the room. Linen gives the room an 'old' look.



Figure 8 Linen Bedding used on Back Porch Daybed



Figure 9 Italian Linen Slipcovers and Grain Sack Pillows

All of my slipcovers are made from linen. I just love how it feels, especially in the summer. It stays cool to the touch, so if you live in a cold climate, you might want to use an alternate fabric for the winters.



5. Add a collection of vintage white or patterned ironstone to your room.



Figure 10 Inherited Antique Ironstone Tureen

I love ironstone. It has a classic, clean look and adds more texture to the room. It, too, is very popular now, but I believe it will always be in style. Why not use an ironstone bowl or tureen to hold simple everyday items like string?

6. Use baskets, especially large vintage baskets for texture and storage.



Figure 11 Linen bedding, rustic baskets and French furniture make this room a luxurious retreat.

I think my bedroom has been pinned more than any other room in my house. The baskets give it warmth and a cozy factor. They also provide extra storage. At night while we sleep, we keep the extra pillows and the duvet in the over-sized basket.



The basket on top of the antique pine French armoire holds extra pillows, but also draws the eye up toward the room's high ceilings.



7. Find something with peeling/chippy paint or rust for the room.

Something chippy or rusty gives the appearance that you have been curating your collection for years. It gives the room an old feeling. I just think every room should have at least one vintage item in it. If you can't find a real vintage item, try antiquing a new one to make it look old.



Figure 12 Dining Room with Vintage Olive Buckets and Restoration Hardware Console

Note that this room has several chippy and rusty elements including the vintage olive buckets, and the chippy wood lamps.



This vignette includes a chippy little vintage cabinet, antique ceiling tin tiles, salvaged boards and antique corbels holding the shelf.



8. Incorporate French furniture, even a small piece makes a difference.



Just adding one piece of French furniture in a room adds an amazing amount of Frenchness. Yes many French pieces are more expensive than non-French furniture, but you can often find something at an auction, estate sale, consignment store, thrift store or yard sale for a reasonable price. I adore going to the auction, but I know some people have auction-phobia. If you have a fear of auctions, check out my post on [how to attend an auction like a pro](#).



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