

# 8 Ways to Add Farmhouse French Style



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Farmhouse French  
Style**

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**Photographs by Anita Joyce**

# Second Edition

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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?





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.



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.



Figure 1 Vintage German wood crate

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





Figure 2 French Graphic Print Lamp Shade

Crates can be found at thrift stores, and sometimes I've got them in [my shop](#). 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 Living Room with lots of Authentic French Details

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



Figure 4 Vintage Silver tray and trophy

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.

A silver plated pitcher works in most any room. Here I've added it to the closet.





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. I often have [grainsacks](#) in my shop.



Figure 8 Linen Bedding used on Back Porch Daybed

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.



Figure 9 Italian Linen Slipcovers





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



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. If you don't want to spend the money for real vintage ironstone, you can always buy new white dishes like these [little cream pitchers](#) available in my shop.



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



**Figure 10** Tole bedding, rustic basket and French furniture make this room a luxurious retreat.

The basket gives the room warmth and a cozy factor. It also provides extra storage. At night the basket is perfect for storing the bedding.



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, or finding something new that is made to look old. This [pedestal](#) is new and available in my shop.



Figure 11 Antique cabinet filled with vintage goodies.

This old cabinets has layers and layers of chippy paint. Note: loose and flaking lead based paint is a health hazard, so make sure to take precautions like using a sealer.



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.](#)



# FRENCH ACCENTS

FARMHOUSE FRENCH STYLE  
FOR TODAY'S HOME

*Anita Joyce*

I sure hope you liked this free ebook I prepared for you. If liked this, I think you will love my new book in hardback, French Accents, Farmhouse French Style for Today's Home. But don't take my word for it. See what Miss Mustard Seed said about it. [FRENCH ACCENTS THE BOOK](#)

Here's one Amazon review from Rhonda L.

I have followed Anita Joyce's blog [Cedar Hill Farmhouse](#) for some time and in doing so became quite enamored with her execution of French style. Needless to say, when she announced she was writing a book, I was thrilled ! [French Accents](#) is everything I hoped it would be. It is filled with pictures of Anita's beautiful French inspired home as well as others. In its chapters are great advice for infusing French farmhouse style on any budget and in any style home. Anita identifies the elements of French style, inspires creativity with numerous project details, gives advice on where to find French items, and shows how to pull it all together with items already owned for a cohesive casual French look. If you love French style and are looking for ways to transform your home to reflect that love, this book is a must read



My home is on the cover of the Winter  
2015 Country French magazine!



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