

How to... Decorate a Cabin

The tavern is a wonderful place to enjoy a drink, interact with other characters, and shake off the dust from a recent adventure. It can present good role-play opportunities, and you are almost assured to be there should excitement arise nearby.

It is my opinion that the best role-play exists in smaller, closer-knit groups. The fewer people around, the fewer distractions to your acting abilities. One of the biggest problems with going to a small cabin, however, is the atmosphere. The tavern is decorated with standards, candles, and wall hangings; but most people's cabins are strewn with empty soda cans, bags of snacks, or just the general clutter of clothing and luggage—not exactly the most conducive to an in-game role-play experience.

Putting effort into properly decorating a cabin and making sure to tuck all out-of-game materials securely away will ensure that your cabin's atmosphere will welcome and encourage role-play. Anyone who enters to scheme, gamble, or simply discuss the surrounding world will have no trouble feeling that she is actually in a building within Ravensgate.

I strongly encourage everyone to decorate your cabin as best you can to reflect the character you are portraying—and then to use your cabin as well, not just for sleeping each night, but for role-playing encounters as well. The more you do this, the more likely you are to find random plot and/or wandering creatures in the woods.

Decorations need not be expensive—a few LED candles; some dollar store prop items; perhaps a wall hanging found at a yard sale or made from an old sheet; that rug your mother was going to throw away because it has a grape juice stain. Check thrift shops and discount department stores like Marshall's, Target, Home Goods, and so on for anything from an authentic-looking valuables trunk to medieval-styled goblets, furs, pillows, baskets, bottles, paintings, and the like. If your budget is really tight, or if you'd rather save your money for costuming or event fees, even just throwing a solid-colored blanket or large piece of scrap fabric over modern items can help get them out of sight and improve the general look of the room.

If you are willing and able to spend a bit more money, many medieval- or Renaissance-looking items are available online or in catalogs. Before you order, make sure to check the quality of the item as thoroughly as possible. The best way to be certain that an item will suit your needs is to inspect it in person, either in-store or by looking at a prop that someone else bought from the same place. You should also take care to make price comparisons before you purchase anything; many vendors buy their wares from the same source but charge different prices during resale. You might be surprised at price differentials.

Please remember that the Éras Chronicles forbids the use of open flames inside of buildings, for safety reasons. That said, there are a number of alternate options available for lighting your cabin safely while still maintaining a strong in-game atmosphere:

1. [Battery-operated candles](#)
2. ["Cool stuff cheap" flameless candles](#)
3. ["Oil" candles](#)
4. [Save-on-crafts' tealights](#), which are also available in-store at Bed, Bath & Beyond

5. [Camping lanterns](#), either solar- or battery-powered
6. [Life-Gear's green glow-sticks](#), which are high-quality, come with a life-time supply of LED batteries, and can be easily hung up in your cabin

Whatever you decide to do, make the cabin that you sleep in yours. Be proud to take other player-characters there for a drink or a quick bite to eat after fighting, or to seal an alliance.

[modified from the original versions by Luke G. of Knight Realms]