

You can decorate flowers without glitter by using dried petals, foliage, herbs or fabric ribbon you can use again. These choices add color and texture without scattering tiny plastic pieces, but their environmental effects still depend on where they come from and how you handle them.

## Add color with petals and foliage

Dried petals make a gentle, scattered accent around a table arrangement. Dry rose petals, for instance, and set them beside a vase or between larger blooms. Leave them in fairly large pieces instead of grinding them into dust, which makes them simpler to collect once the display is taken down.

Leaves bring another kind of detail. Set a few around the foot of a centerpiece to add depth without drawing attention away from the flowers. If you have suitable foliage growing at home, use what is available and gather only as much as you need.

Keep in mind that fresh petals and leaves will alter as they dry. They may curl, darken or turn delicate. You can let those changes become part of the arrangement rather than trying to prevent them.

## Let natural textures stand out

Glitter catches the light, but varied textures can also draw the eye in a quieter way. Pair smooth petals with airy foliage, seed heads or a small number of dried herb stems. These differences are easy to notice in a simple arrangement that leaves some space between stems.

You can use these accents separately or combine them:

- Scatter dried petals around the vase, but keep them away from food.

- Add a few herb sprigs among the flowers for shape and scent.
- Tie reusable fabric ribbon around a vase or the stems of a bouquet.
- Lay gathered leaves beneath a centerpiece to create a relaxed border.

If the flowers will be on a dining table, use scented herbs with care. Their fragrance might compete with the meal, and some people are sensitive to strong smells.

## Check what alternatives contain

Glitter sold as biodegradable can be made from different materials and may need particular conditions to break down. Read the product information to find out what it contains and what conditions are required. The wording on a package does not guarantee that the material will decompose in a home compost pile or in water.

It also matters how you attach a decoration. Loose petals are easier to remove than petals fixed to flowers with adhesive. Glue can make it difficult to separate items for reuse or composting. Placing accents around an arrangement instead of sticking them on keeps tidying up more straightforward.

## Make cleanup and reuse part of the plan

Once you are finished with the flowers, separate ribbon, wire and other materials that are not plant matter from the stems. Put clean ribbon aside for another bouquet or for wrapping a gift. Before composting flowers and foliage, check whether your local collection service accepts them and follow its rules. Home composting guidance can differ as well.

Collect loose petals and leaves from floors and tables instead of washing them into a drain, where they may cause blockages. If you do not know whether flowers or foliage have been treated with certain substances, consult local disposal advice rather than assuming they can go in compost.

A few thoughtful details can give flowers a special look without leaving glitter behind. You may find that the colors and shapes already in the arrangement are all the decoration you need.

See also: fresh flowers in the home