

How to Decorate With Table Runners

Looking to [elevate your tablescape](#) the next time you entertain? Try a [table runner](#)! "Table runners can really ground your table settings and can serve as a backdrop for any decorations, highlighting centerpieces and giving the table a symmetrical finish," Dean Tomihama, of [Sferra](#), says. "They are a great addition on top of a tablecloth, used more as a layering piece, or as the base directly on top of the table." And these linens aren't just for the dining room. "Table runners can be great accessories for other furniture as well," Tomihama adds. "We've styled them for bedside tables, console tables, and even coffee tables."

Keep These Tips on Hand If Your Runner Doesn't Quite Cut It

Perhaps you've taken your table runner out of storage and noticed that it isn't in tip-top shape for hosting. Lifestyle expert Megan Chiarello of [Leallo](#) weighs in with a solution. "If you're working with unpresentable table runners, whether wrinkly or an improper size for the table, I always suggest decorating with nature-evocative pieces, distracting from the runners but in a tasteful and curated way," she advises. Consider shopping your own backyard for accents, which is not only affordable but also a practical option if you're short on time. "Being in the Hamptons, nature is such a big part of my life and something we are so grateful to be surrounded by," Chiarello adds. "We always go for a hike to forage some pretty branches, beach grass, and shells to create a natural [tablescape](#). It's always fun to find different treasures." However, keep in mind that table runners do last for quite some time, so you don't need to worry too much about the general wear and tear. In fact, the more storied the piece, the better, Tomihama states. "Table runners that have been passed down for generations or received as gifts are a wonderful way to add something meaningful to table settings for special occasions," he notes. "A runner is an item that doesn't tend to endure much wear, so will last for many years."