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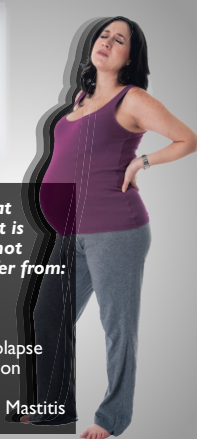
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- Like incontinence, prolapse is common, with 1 in 2 women experiencing some degree of prolapse. Common symptoms that occur with prolapse are sensation of heaviness, irritation, pressure or pain.
- In a large study of women after their first pregnancy; 62% had pain with intimacy at 3 months post partum



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COMMENT

You can't be too careful when buying a porch tree

By Ted Brown
tedbit@hotmail.com



A Ted Bit

Maybe it's the fact we've had an unseasonably warm November, and Remembrance Day is now past. Or perhaps it's the fact that the past couple years I've been shirking my duties around the exterior of the house.

Regardless of the reason, I got caught last Saturday. I broke down and bought some Christmas decorations.

Okay, to be clear, I didn't exactly buy some decorations— more accurately, I took part in the purchase of them. I stood by as The Sidekick bought them. And I actually kinda, sorta, perhaps a little, teeny tiny bit, enjoyed it.

I blame Daughter Number Four for starting the ball rolling. All my daughters are certifiable Christmas decoration junkies. When they were in school, they all took a stint working the Santa booth at the mall, and were consequently addicted by the overdose of Christmas decorations, music and Santa himself, as they performed their duties taking photos of little kids on the old elf's knee.

So Daughter Number Four sent out an email to all the family, reminding us of the fact that "Christmas is only 40 days away, and we really should be..."

That started it. Soon after, The Sidekick, another Christmas softy, started poring over the flyers in last week's newspapers.

"There's 'porch trees' on sale at..." She mentioned in passing. "Maybe we should look at them when we go to town today. They might look nice on the veranda. They're only \$74.99 each..."

Mention of decorating the veranda— okay, the entire exterior of the house— always brings out a few twangs of guilt in me. You see, the past couple years, exterior decorations at the Brown residence have been a bit sparse. Okay, more accurately non-existent.

So I agreed to 'take a look' at the porch trees that were on sale.

The trees in question were nice little five foot artificial fir trees, with twinkle lights already mount-

ed on them.

Immediately I got into 'consumer mode' and started to check other flyers to see what else was available. I found another source of trees, the same height, with 150 lights. The big difference— they were 'on sale' at \$129.99 each. That's quite a price span. The first ones were looking better and better.

Once in the store, we read the box, to see how many lights it had, tree width, and all the specifications. You can't be too careful when it comes to buying a porch tree.

Ah haaa! The one we were looking at was 36 inches at the base, while the \$129.99 ones were 32 inches!

This was a deal!

There's an Ikea commercial where the woman looks at the price tag, and rushes to the car with the item, to get out of the store before someone notices, on the assumption it was priced wrong. Once in the store, looking at a five-foot-tall porch tree, complete with 150 warm white twinkle lights, AND a 36 inch wide base— it doesn't get any better.

I became that Ikea woman.

"Get two of them!" I said to The Sidekick.

I'm sure she thought I was losing my mind, but if she's gonna score a couple of porch trees, and also have some decorations up on NOVEMBER 15! Well, I'm pretty sure she'll accept my sudden senility.

Once home, we unpacked them and set 'em on the veranda, one on either side of the front door.

They do look nice, giving a warm fuzzy feeling to all who pass by.

The Sidekick ain't no dummy. She knows that since the ball is rolling (thanks to Daughter Number Four's email) I'll be inspired to finish the outdoor decorations. My obsessive-compulsive indications won't let me stand by to see it half done.

So this is a record year- we have decorations up on Nov. 15, and more importantly... there's more to come.

Elizabeth's
shop early...shop often!

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