

Christmas Garland Decorations

Victorians would often use Christmas garlands to not only adorn their Christmas trees, but to decorate rooms in their homes as well as their businesses. Such garlands were home made and were often made out of pine, spruce and cedar. However, some were also made out of paper and even food!

Although , today you are more likely to see paperchains at a birthday party, paper chains were originally a Victorian Christmas Decoration. They were first seen in England in the 1850s when the British began to adopt a number of German Christmas traditions.

Europeans who immigrated to North America brought along their Christmas traditions, which they adapted to their surroundings. In the mid-1850s, American borrowed from the German tradition of using fruit and nuts in their decorations. As popcorn and cranberries were still in season, they were incorporated into decorative strands that were hung on Christmas trees.

How to make a Victorian Paperchain:

To make a Victorian paperchain, cut strips of colourful paper that are all roughly the same size and length. Glue your first circle by sticking the ends of one strip together. Loop your next strip of paper through your first circle, and repeat until you've reached the length you want.

Hang your Victorian paper chain on your Christmas tree, over the fireplace, or bannister or even round the TV!

How to make Victorian Popcorn Garland:

You will need:

Plain popped popcorn (it is better to use stale popcorn as fresh will break easily)

Fresh Cranberries (not the dried variety)

Needle (blunt tip or large eye needle works best for children)

Thread, dental floss or fishing line

Directions: thread needle, then double up the string and tie a large knot on the end. Start by threading a cranberry, as it is less likely to slip off the knot at the end of your string. Carefully, alternate threading the popcorn and cranberries in a pattern of your choosing. Once your strand is completed, knot the other end of your string. Finished garland can be shellacked so it stays fresh longer.

Note: we highly recommend keeping a bowl of fresh popcorn on hand to snack on while creating your festive garland!

