



Ritual Altars

Ritual and personal altars can be created anywhere with anything. They can be temporary or permanent. You can use natural items or your favourite bits and baubles.

If creating an altar outside, I prefer to utilize natural items that I find strewn about. Acorns, leaves, shells, rocks, flowers, bits of wood - All make great additions to your altar. You can assign a designation to each piece or you can just have them as decorations. I love to create ritual altars both inside and outside. For me it adds to the ritual because by creating it, my attention is placed there, which adds both to the ambiance and fuels my intention. I also pay respect to whatever diwatas (deities) watch over or dwell there. If at the river, I leave an offering for Mama Oshun or if in the forest, I'll leave an offering for Bago or the faeries.



Personal Altars



For personal altars, mine tend to be more elaborate. Some of them stay up indefinitely but some are up for only a day. I have mini altars in almost every room. I also have a garden altar that changes and evolves through the year.

I typically include fresh flowers and/or fruit for my inside altars. I also make an offering for the spirits who are in charge of what I seek.



Altars are personal so create one just for you or for your family. If you have kids, you might like to have a family altar in a shared space. Invite your kids to place things on the altar and spend time there. I like to have a small vessel with a lid. Prayers or wishes or problems can be placed inside.

If you're creating a ritual for a something specific, like a new job, you can place items that represent the new job or something with the name of the company on it. You can also dedicate an altar to a person or an animal you love. When my mom was in the hospital, I had a mini altar dedicated to her recovery



Once she was backhome, I took it down. It doesn't matter how big or small, how fancy or how simple, as with most things, what really matters is your intention and what you put into it so make it great. Make it for you.