
How To Prepare Your Home For Christmas



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Abstract

Christmas is a time of joy, celebration, and togetherness, but preparing your home for the festive season can feel overwhelming. A well-organized, clean, and beautifully decorated space sets the perfect atmosphere for a stress-free and enjoyable holiday. This guide explores essential steps to get your home ready for Christmas, including decluttering, deep cleaning, decorating, and creating a warm, inviting ambiance for guests. From organizing living spaces to setting up festive décor and planning holiday gatherings, proper preparation ensures a seamless and magical experience. Whether hosting a large celebration or enjoying a quiet family Christmas, these practical tips will help create a welcoming environment filled with comfort, joy, and holiday cheer.



1. Introduction

The Christmas season is a time of warmth, joy, and cherished moments with family and friends. However, the preparations leading up to the holiday can often feel overwhelming, with cleaning, decorating, and organizing all demanding attention. A well-prepared home not only enhances the festive spirit but also creates a comfortable and inviting atmosphere for celebrations. From decluttering and deep cleaning to setting up holiday décor and planning for guests, taking the right steps can help ensure a stress-free and enjoyable Christmas. This guide will provide practical tips on how to get your home ready for the festive season, allowing you to embrace the holiday magic with ease and excitement.

2. Get Your Home Ready For Guests



Give your guests the five-star treatment with an exceptionally clean, cozy, and comfortable room. Here's your checklist.

Laying out a great welcome mat is one way to invite guests into your home. Whether you're hosting guests for a single night or an entire week, a carefully considered guest room can help make your visitors feel right at home. First and foremost, your guest room should be clean and well-organized. A comfortable bed, or at the very least a great air mattress, is vital. From there, add on a few much-appreciated extras, like fresh flowers and fuzzy slippers. To transform your spare guest room into a luxury hotel, complete the guest room checklist below.

The Essentials

Basket of Basics

Offer a neat grouping of new toothbrushes, travel-size toiletries (including toothpaste and saline solution), and "just-in-case" meds, so guests instantly feel cared for.

Hand Sanitizer and Disinfecting Wipes

Leaving out a few extra cleaning supplies may help your guests feel more comfortable and in control of their space.

Vacant Drawers

It's off-putting for visitors to find the guest room closet and dresser bursting with your overflow clothing. Leave at least two free drawers (set ajar so it's clear that they're for guest use), ample hanging space, and a half-dozen hangers to stow belongings.

Air Freshener

Keep a room deodorizer on hand to combat mustiness or cover up a bad smell (quick). Or consider a natural-oil diffuser with a subtle scent, like lavender or eucalyptus.

A Cozy Rug

A plush covering (on a wood floor or on top of a carpet) softens the space and makes the room feel cozy. Choose a durable, stain-resistant material, like wool.

Electric Fan

If you have a ceiling fan to keep the space from getting stuffy, great. If not, pick up an electric table fan. Before guests arrive, make sure it works and clean the blades.

Carafe of Water and a Glass

Keep the vessel freshly filled to prevent guests from having to hunt, opening and closing cupboards, when middle-of-the-night thirst strikes.

Spare Key

Without one, guests are less comfortable coming and going as they please. Leave the key on a tray on the nightstand, along with a note detailing any tricky locks or alarms.

Covered Waste Can

It's inevitable that guests will accumulate trash. A covered can lets them toss litter without having to look at it. Instead of a version with a lift-off lid, choose a step can—it's easier and more sanitary.

Luggage Rack

Their suitcases have been dragged through a plane or a train or stuffed in a car trunk. Do you really want them opened on top of the duvet? A rack is more convenient.

Extra Toilet Paper (and a Plunger)

Place these in an obvious place in the bathroom.... because no visitor wants to ask!

Clean Towels

Leaving a stack of fluffy towels on the bed or in the bathroom signals to your guests that they're free to use the shower, without having to ask. Bonus points: If your shower is particularly difficult to operate, consider leaving out some brief instructions.

Extra Credit

Fresh Flowers

They're the best way to make a space welcoming. Just put mildly scented grocery store blooms in a vase that's out of the way and not tippable, in case guests are getting ready in a hurry.

WiFi Password

Bonus points: Print it on card stock, have it laminated at an office-supply shop, and place it on the nightstand so that guests can find it at a glance.

Reading Material

Two to three current issues of newsy or general lifestyle magazines or a small stack of books (short stories, poetry, and essays) are a nice touch for lounging.

Comfy Slippers

Leave a pair or two next to the bed so visitors don't have to walk around in socks (or barefoot).

Charging Station

Leave one on the nightstand so guests can power up if they forgot theirs at home (or just don't feel like digging around in the suitcase for it). Consider a universal phone charger that'll work for iPhones and Androids.

TV/Remote Instructions

It's much easier to provide printed steps. Include a list of crowd-pleasing channels (CNN, E!, ESPN) for quick reference.

Hamper

It's so much nicer to have a spot for stashing dirty clothes other than a suitcase, especially for guests staying more than a few days.

Steamer

A space-saving alternative to the iron and board for smoothing blouses and button-downs.

Motion-Sensor Light

Any nightlight en route to the bathroom is appreciated, but a motion-sensor version lets you keep the house nice and dark when it's not needed. It's low-cost and a cinch to install, too.

Room-Darkening Curtains

Light-blocking drapes are a godsend for late risers.

Snack Station



A small basket or jar of snacks lets midnight snacking happen without them feeling awkward about asking you.

Extra Pillows and Blankets

Take the guessing game out of prepping a bed by supplying overnight guests with ample blankets and pillows so they can customize their sleep space to their liking.

Clock Radio

Sure, they'll probably use their phone, but a clock radio may give them another option for listening to music (or checking the time in the middle of the night).

The Ultimate Guest Room Checklist

Check out our printable, portable ultimate guest room checklist to ensure you're always stocked up for visitors.

3. How to Decorate Your House at Christmas



Decorating a house in anticipation of Christmas is almost as fun as opening presents on Christmas morning. Whether you're having guests over for a holiday party or you want to make your house feel cozy and festive for your family, this article explains how to show your Christmas spirit by including traditional decorations in Perth, making the outside of your house sparkle, and adding sweet touches throughout the house.

Traditional Decorations

Buy or trim a Christmas tree. Many consider the tree to be the most important Christmastime decoration; if you don't do anything else, get a tree! Choose either a real tree or an artificial one. Set it up in the room where you and your family will be opening presents together on Christmas day.

Hang stockings. String store-bought or handmade stockings across the fireplace, over the mantle, or in another spot in the same room as the Christmas tree. Use red or green ribbon

or twine to hang the stockings. Each member of the family should get his or her own stocking.

Don't forget the mistletoe. You might be able to find a bit of fresh mistletoe in a nursery - or even in a hardwood tree in your yard or neighborhood - but you can also buy a faux mistletoe plant to hang in a doorway in your house.[4] Hang it from a small hook in a doorway between rooms. Tie a small red ribbon over the hook to make it look more festive. And of course, encourage people to give each other a kiss if they find themselves standing beneath the mistletoe together.

Hang some lights elsewhere around the house. Hang some lights at the top borders of walls where the ceiling meets the wall. If possible and if you have enough lights to do it, strand up some lights around the room you will be presenting most of the Christmas festivities in Perth.

Set Up a Christmas Village, if you have a few Christmas Village houses to present to people. These houses have become a symbol of old time and years past and a representation of what Christmases gone by have been like.

Display a manger someplace inside the Christmas festivities room or near the Christmas tree. You may want to include baby Jesus before (if you are afraid of losing him to the original box or forgetting to place him in the cradle later), but that can be left up to you to decide.

Decorate some of the other rooms in your house. Hang more ornaments with paperclips on nails and screws that are only used during Christmas. Make things festive inside the house.

Set up a Christmas tree in a child's room, if you can be assured that they will not try to mess or play with it, or break it in any way. Some tweens and early teenagers can be trusted to not break the ornaments.

Display some of the Christmas cards as they arrive. Use some of supporting banisters and windows to hang the cards.

Set out any entryway doormats inside or outside that have a festive Christmas theme (if any special ones are present).

Set up a festive Christmas table centerpiece table setting and table (drapes).

Get some Christmas music ready to be played in stereo. Prepare some CD's or cassettes, or find stations on the computer that play solely Christmas music. There are a few Christmas stations on Pandora, iHeartRadio and Live365 that play Christmas music all year long. There are others in assorted areas of the Internet that can be found, but these are three of the more popular areas that can be trusted to play all the favorite Christmas tunes all year long.

3.1. Styling tips for decorating your Christmas tree like a professional



Decorating a Christmas tree is the highlight of the festive season, and the earlier the better, say experts, who claim decorating early will activate feel-good hormones to make us feel happier. The latest Christmas decor trend indicates that we'll be having several 'show trees' in the home this year, not just in the living room, but trees (although perhaps smaller) in the kitchen, hallway and bedroom. So if you want to learn some quick, easy tricks on how to dress your Christmas tree to perfection, then we've got you covered.

We've asked stylists and designers – including the expert team at Balsam Hill whose artificial Christmas trees have graced the TV sets of Good Morning Britain, This Morning and The Jonathan Ross Show – to share their top secrets.

But before we begin, like any task, you need to have the right tools to ensure a safe and proper set-up. This includes cotton gloves for shaping branches (and to prevent scratches), scissors for materials, packaging and equipment, and a sturdy ladder or step stool for installing toppers and arranging decorations on taller trees.

So now you're prepped, fancy getting that Insta-worthy look with very little effort? Read on for tips from the pros...

1. Invest in a high-quality tree

Artificial Christmas trees crafted from premium materials provide sturdy and reliable support for decorations. You'll find that high-quality trees are generally more durable and can stand up to repeated use year after year, all while maintaining its beautiful look.

Opt for a traditional tree rather than a trend-led one so that it doesn't go 'out of date' after a few years, plus a traditional design gives you the perfect base to layer and decorate as you wish.

Pre-lit Christmas trees are a firm household favourite because it saves time in untangling all those lights, however, a benefit of buying an unlit tree is that you can choose whatever style of lights you want. When it comes to size, 7ft Christmas trees in Perth are now extremely popular but you should always choose a tree that fits in your space and doesn't leave it feeling too cramped. If you're tight on space, there are some great slim Christmas trees on the market, including narrow pencil designs, which may be a better fit. And remember, to prevent wear and tear on your Christmas tree, consider models with advanced features that offer easy set up and storage.

Alternatively, if you want a real Christmas tree, there's a great selection available to buy from tree farms, markets or online stores. See all the tree varieties available, including Nordmann Fir and Norway Spruce, in our real Christmas tree guide.

2. Fluff and shape branches

Fluffing the branches helps to make your artificial Christmas tree look fuller and more natural. This can be a very time-consuming task, but trust us, the end result is more than worth it. Gloves (and a long-sleeve top) will serve you well here, helping to avoid any scrapes and grazes on your hand and arms, as the branches can be spiky.

To begin, separate each branch so they fan out to cover as much area as possible, and don't hesitate to bend individual branches to fill in gaps. A properly shaped tree is an appealing sight, however minimal or lavish your embellishments may be.

3. Design around a theme

A professional-looking Christmas tree has a central look that ties the decorations together. Deciding on a theme before choosing your decorations sets the tone and gives you a clear idea of how to decorate your tree. Need some inspiration? Why not take a look at John Lewis' Christmas themes this year – from Dawn & Dusk to Trinket & Treasure, there are four key looks to help you decorate this festive season.

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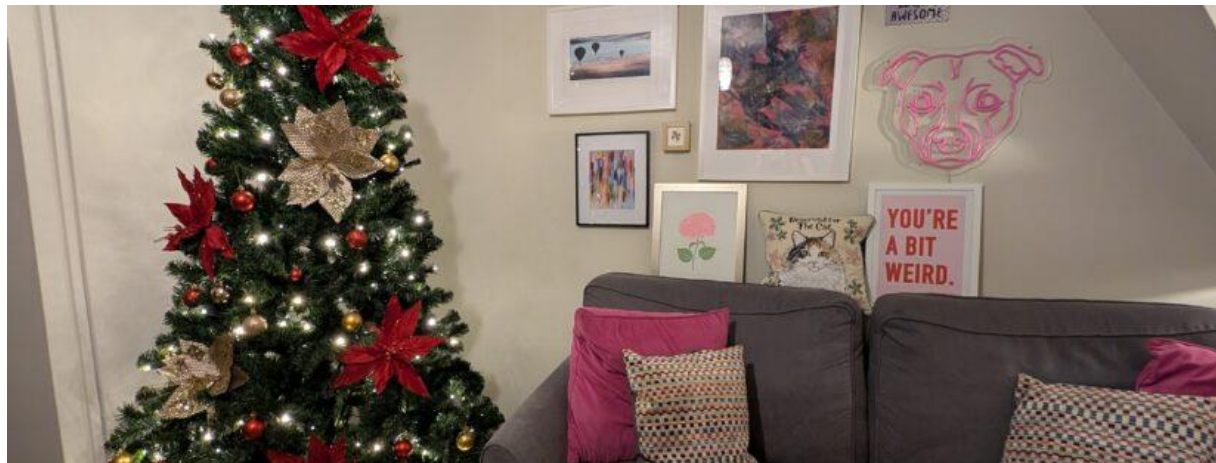
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4. Choose the right colours (and materials)

Once you've decided on your theme, curate a colour palette to bring it to life. For example, for a traditional yet opulent look stick to a red, green and gold, for a Scandi vibe layer shades of white and soft neutrals, or choose blue and silver for an icy cool aesthetic. Stick to two (definitely no more than three) colours to keep the look contained rather than cluttered. Also think about materials and texture: plush velvet baubles are perfect for a luxe tree, while paper and wooden decorations are ideal for any Nordic-inspired, rustic or even minimalist trees.

Less is always more but it is Christmas after all, so above anything else, decorate your tree in whatever way makes you happy! The decorating rulebook is certainly relaxed at Christmastime, so have fun with it.

5. Start with the lights first



While pre-lit Christmas trees are popular and will save you time (and money), you'll need Christmas tree lights if you have a plain tree. As a general rule of thumb, the lighting experts at Lights4fun advise 100 bulbs or 5 metres of lights per 2ft of Christmas tree. So for a 6ft tree, you'd need 300 bulbs or 15 metres of lights.

The first, most important thing you need to do when decorating your Christmas tree is to always add the lights first – it's more difficult to do this after you've added decorations like baubles and garlands.

The experts at Balsam Hill suggest using the plug as the starting point, wrapping the lights around your Christmas tree's trunk, and working your way up from the centre of the base of

your tree. Continue wrapping the lights evenly around the branches nearest to the trunk, and then weave it upwards from the middle of the crown.

'When you reach the crown, weave your way back down, arranging the lights further out on the branches,' Balsam Hill advise. 'Keep weaving the lights until you reach the tips of the branches.'

And remember, when weaving, the bulb should be positioned under a branch and the next bulb over a branch, and so forth.

6. Balance the decor

Given the many Christmas tree decorations you're likely to have, you have to ensure that everything is well-balanced and spread out to your liking. Always start at the top: arrange embellishments from the top of the tree and then work towards the bottom. This way, you can easily check your design as you dress up your tree.

7. Cluster your baubles

Balsam Hill's design consultant, Brad Schmidt, recommends clustering three baubles of different sizes to add flair and visual appeal. You can either put the same pieces together or choose contrasting ones.

The White Company echo this suggestion – to create a balanced, visually pleasing tree, buy baubles in threes, sixes, or twelves, and add these on first in a 'Z' shape. You should hang larger baubles closer to the centre of the tree to give it more depth, and use smaller ones towards the end of the branches.

Dangle delicate glass baubles at the top of the tree to prevent any breakages, and add special ones last to ensure they are in the perfect position.

4. Decluttering And Cleaning For A Peaceful Christmas



Christmas is a time of joy, togetherness and celebration, but the lead-up to it can also feel chaotic, with decorations, shopping lists, and gatherings competing for our attention. One of the most effective ways to create a truly peaceful holiday is to start with a clean, organised home.

Decluttering and cleaning can help you reset your space and mind, leaving room for relaxation and enjoyment. By taking the time to clear out unused items and deep cleaning key areas, you'll set the stage for a festive season free of unnecessary stress.

Whether you're hosting a large gathering or want a serene environment for your family, getting your home in order can make all the difference. If tackling the entire house sounds daunting, consider calling a professional vacate cleaning service in Perth, which will allow you to focus on what matters most. With a tidy, welcoming space, you'll be ready to celebrate Christmas surrounded by calmness, beauty and the people you love.

1. Why Declutter Before Christmas?

Christmas often brings an influx of new items – gifts, decorations and the occasional impulse buy. As these things fill up our homes, the available space can quickly disappear. Decluttering beforehand helps you make room for new additions, ensuring your home remains functional and organised. Also, a less cluttered environment leads to a calmer mind. If you are short on time, consider hiring professional help. When everything has its place, you can enjoy Christmas without feeling overwhelmed by the chaos. Moreover, if you have a neat and tidy space, it helps your guests feel more welcome.

2. Start with a Plan of Action

Before diving into cleaning, it is helpful to create a plan. Decide which areas of the house need the most attention and prioritise them. Kitchen, living room and bathrooms are often where guests spend the most time, so these are key focus areas. Start with a decluttering

session: sort out what you no longer need, from old decorations and outdated cookware to items that have accumulated over the years.

Once the clutter is cleared, a thorough cleaning will be easier to tackle or you could enlist a cheap vacate cleaning Perth Company to take on the heavy lifting for you. Having a plan keeps you organised and on schedule. Allocate time to each task so that you can make steady progress without feeling overwhelmed.

3. Decluttering Tips for a Stress-Free Holiday

Decluttering not only makes space for holiday decor and gifts but also brings a sense of calm to the home. Here are a few simple tips to tackle the clutter:

One area at a time

Focus on one room before moving on to the next. This prevents the mess from shifting around and allows you to see progress quickly.

Use the “Four Box” method

Label four boxes as keep, donate, trash and relocate. As you go through items, sort them into these categories. This method simplifies the process, making it easier to decide what should stay or go.

Set time limits

Decluttering can sometimes turn into a full-day event. Set a timer for 20-30 minutes for each session, allowing you to make progress without feeling overwhelmed. This way no room in your rental property will be missed.

Think seasonal



Christmas is a great time to evaluate which decorations or items you use all year round. Pack away seasonal items and donate or discard those you no longer enjoy.

If you find this task daunting, you can always hire services like vacate cleaning in Perth. They specialise in deep cleaning, and you'll be amazed at how much brighter and fresher your home feels after a professional touch.

4. Holiday Cleaning Essentials

After decluttering, it's time to tackle the task of cleaning. A tidy, clean space sets the stage for a peaceful and inviting holiday.

Dust and polish surfaces

Start with high surfaces like shelves, window sills and ceiling fans. Dust travels downwards, so dusting high areas first prevents re-cleaning lower ones. Wipe down surfaces with a good quality cleaner or make use of DIY cleaning solutions, and consider using natural scents like peppermint or pine for a festive touch.

Deep cleaning the kitchen

Since Christmas usually involves a lot of cooking and entertaining in Perth, your kitchen should be pristine. Clean appliances, clean out the fridge & pantry and sanitise countertops.

Bathrooms matter

Bathrooms will see a lot of use over Christmas. Clean mirrors, scrub tiles, and make sure the sinks and toilets are sparkling. Stock up on extra hand towels and consider adding a small festive touch, like a seasonal candle or greenery.

Organise closets and storage spaces

When guests visit, they may need to store jackets or bags, so having an organised storage area is a bonus. Use baskets or bins to keep things organised, making space for any items visitors may need to stow.

These will help you create a warmer, more inviting space for your festive gatherings and make your Christmas celebrations stress-free and enjoyable.

5. Maintain the Cleanliness



Once the decluttering and deep cleaning are complete, keeping your home tidy throughout the holiday season becomes much easier. To maintain things spend 10-15 minutes daily on quick tidying. Wipe surfaces, do a quick sweep of high traffic areas and handle small messes as they appear. This way your home stays fresh and welcoming.

Over-decorating can also make spaces feel cluttered, so choose a few favourites and arrange these items tastefully. Keeping things minimal reduces clean-up time and preserves your clutter-free environment. Additionally, get your family members to help you. Assign small tasks to each person to keep things orderly. With everyone pitching in, it will feel like a manageable chore.

5. How to Plan a Christmas Party



A successful party lives on in everyone's memory long after the last glass of punch has been sipped and the last bite of dessert eaten. But the fuss and frustration of planning can be a big party pooper. All the details -- What kind of party should I have? Whom should I invite? How should I decorate? What do I serve? -- can make even the most experienced host or hostess a little stressed.

If you add to this equation the many demands and complications of the holiday season, you have the recipe for a real headache. Though the rewards of a successful Christmas party will carry on all year, some people might feel that the planning and execution is just too much of a burden.

That's why we've included lots of party themes, ideas, and menus that make it easy to pull off a spectacular event. Our tried-and-true secrets for entertaining will ensure that your party is one to remember! We will walk you through all the steps of planning and hosting a Christmas party, including:

Decorating for a Christmas PartyWhen you are hosting a large party or celebration you want to create an exciting environment for your guests to relax in. Some simple decorations can turn your house into a seasonal wonderland for holiday revelers. In this section, we will show you how to decorate for a Christmas party, including how to choose a color scheme and how to create a festive Christmas centerpiece.

Planning a Christmas PartyIt's easy to think of the perfect Christmas party, but it's a whole other matter making it happen. As with any large project, the only way to ensure success is

careful planning. On this page, we will show you how to plan a Christmas party, from conception to picking party invitations to choosing a theme to enjoying the night of the party.

Decorating for a Christmas Party

The sound of a crackling fire. The joy of newly fallen snow. The anticipation of Santa Claus. The smell of a cedar tree. The taste of a freshly baked Christmas cookie. At its very essence, Christmas is a holiday that excites our senses. How things sound, look, feel, smell, and taste evoke memories of holidays past, flooding us with emotions.

The best way to re-create these memories -- and to create new memories for our families and friends -- is to surround ourselves with things that remind us of the season. Decorating is one of the easiest ways to accomplish this. Whether you are planning a small get together or a large party, decking your home in seasonal splendor will satiate the senses and fill all your guests with holiday spirit.

Ornament Centerpiece: Before you begin constructing your Christmas centerpiece, you'll need to assemble the following items:

Dry floral foam

- Knife
- 4- to 6-inch-high brass bowl
- Hot glue gun, glue sticks
- Ruler
- Evergreen bough
- 14 Christmas ornament balls
- 12 small pinecones
- 1 spray of plums (or about 7 plums)
- 4 berry sprays, cut into pieces
- 3 poinsettia flowers with leaves
- To create an ornament centerpiece:

Cut floral foam to fit the bowl; glue. (Use a plastic liner if you don't want to glue bowl.) Cut bough into five- to six-inch lengths. Form width and length by gluing greens around edge of container.

Mound Christmas ornaments, pinecones, plums, and berry sprays on the greens and floral foam and secure with hot glue.

Glue sprigs of greens, poinsettia flowers, and other poinsettia leaves to fill in holes between ornaments and pinecones.

The Colors of Christmas Christmas in Perth is all about color. Glowing strings of lights, festive stockings, and beautifully wrapped gifts take center stage. The colors you choose to emphasize in your Christmas decorations can impact the feelings they evoke. Consider your goals -- icy and intense, cozy and traditional, modern and fresh, elegant and luxurious -- before deciding on a color scheme.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas: A white Christmas can be classic and traditional or glamorous and fresh. That's the beauty of decorating with such a versatile color. With contemporary interiors, an all-white Christmas is en vogue: current, up-to-date, modern. With traditional decors, all white lends a homespun feel to the holidays. Twinkling white lights and touches of silver are spectacular accents to an all-white decorating scheme. Flickering candles or a roaring fire add warmth to pure white and play up the shimmery effect of any gold or silver accents.

Now that you have your decorations picked out, it's time to plan your party. On the next page, we will help you make your Christmas party a reality.

Planning a Christmas Party

Any event planner or caterer will tell you the key to a successful party is planning. It's not enough to simply make a few dishes and send invitations. A little advance planning saves you time and headaches later so spend five or ten minutes envisioning the party and walking yourself through as a guest. When party time comes, both you and your guests will have a night to remember!

Dreaming of the Perfect Party



The holiday season is packed with parties, so it's a good idea to send invitations three weeks in advance. The sooner you send your invitations, the less likely it is that your guests will have committed to another event. Your invitations should state the starting and ending time of your party and should mention the food you will be serving, whether it is light holiday fare or a traditional sit-down dinner. And don't forget to include directions!

Choose a menu for which many of the items can be made ahead of time. Some appetizers and desserts can be made and frozen several weeks in advance. Other recipes can be mixed together a few days before and stored in the refrigerator. Simply bake and finish the day of the party. Remember that parties aren't the time to try a new recipe. Either test a new menu item before the party, or stick with tried-and-true recipes.

Opt for heavy finger foods instead of recipes that require dinnerware. Foods that can be eaten without a fork and knife keep spills and dribbles down, and they reduce the amount of dishwashing you have to do later. If you do serve dishes that require dinnerware, make sure you have table seating for guests to sit down and eat. Make it easy on yourself. If you dread cleanup, opt for nice plasticware that can be tossed in the trash.

Think about traffic flow. Place your bar close to ice and water. Place trays of finger foods on side tables and buffets throughout your entertaining area. Provide enough chairs so that at least half of your guests can be seated at a time. Position several trash cans inconspicuously near the food tables and bar to prevent precarious pileups of plates and traffic jams in the kitchen.

If you don't have time to deep clean your home the day of the party, hit the heavy traffic areas such as your living room, dining room, and bathrooms, and leave the rest for later.

Set the mood with holiday music playing in the background and lit candles sparkling throughout the house. Personalize the night with a special activity. Invite your guests to write a holiday wish in a guest book displayed on your coffee table or ask them to join you for some caroling. Little details such as these help make your party an event to remember.

Guests love party favors. Send yours home with a little something extra: a small ornament, a bag of cookies, even a candy cane with a bow is a sweet way to say happy holidays.

Inspired Invitations

An invitation is your guest's first impression of what your party will be like. To build the excitement, don't settle for a phone call or purchased invitation. Instead, use your party's theme to inspire your own quirky creations.

For a nice personal touch, use a photo from last year's party as the front of your invitation, or send one with your family dressed in holiday garb or outfits that complement your party's theme. You might also have your child draw a picture of the nativity scene, your party, or a present. Scan the photo onto a computer and print onto cardstock.

Get guests into party mode by making a custom CD of holiday music or other music that goes with your party theme. Write the party details on the CD label and send in a bubble-wrap envelope.

If you'd like an invitation with a hand-crafted look, purchase holiday stamps, and use them to make custom invitations. Stamps are available in a variety of seasonal motifs, making them ideal for expressing a particular party theme.

No time to make your invitations? Purchase nice note cards, and write a handwritten invitation with black ink. This is an elegant and personal way to announce your party.

Themed Christmas Parties

There are many different Christmas parties you can plan aside from the traditional tree-trimming parties. Here are some colorful alternatives. Boxing Day: In merry old England, servants were required to work on Christmas Day. However, they were given reprieve the day after to visit family. Their employers would send them off with a box containing gifts and food, hence the holiday "Boxing Day." Today, people continue to celebrate by taking the day off to visit family and friends.

This event is a combination of Christmas festivities and those of Boxing Day. Decorate the table with pine boughs, holly, mistletoe, juniper berries, cinnamon sticks, oranges with fragrant cloves, bowls of fruit, and tiny Christmas trees. Wrap small boxes with metallic and holiday paper and use for decoration or add small gifts that your guests can open after dinner.

You can also fill English "crackers" (colored paper tubes) with candy and small presents. For a unique Boxing Day invitation, write the party information on a piece of paper, fold it up, then place it in a small, wrapped box to hand-deliver to guests.

Le Reveillon

What was once a simple meal after midnight mass has blossomed into Le Reveillon, a nighttime dinner for French families with many of the same dishes as those served on Christmas Day. Some families use the event to decorate the tree or give presents. Like many other nationalities, the French often decorate with a nativity scene, greenery, and candles.

An old-world Christmas: Celebrating the season is a month-long tradition in Germany, with festivities culminating on Christmas Eve, the night the Christmas tree is unveiled. Children are not allowed to see the tree until a bell is rung and it is brought out, fully decorated with cars, trains, angels, tinsel, lights, and ornaments. Families sing Christmas carols and place presents underneath. The night later gives way to a feast so lavish that the evening is often called "Dickbauch," or "fat stomach." Legend has it that those who do not eat well will be haunted by demons during the night.

Invite guests to an old-world party by printing out an invitation, leaving the front blank. Then glue greenery to the front in the shape of a wreath. Clippings from your tree, mistletoe, and ivy are easy choices to work with.

On the day of the party, decorate with nuts, fruits, greenery, marzipan, and adorable carved, wooden figurines of angels, trees, and Santa. Don't forget candles and trimmings.

Party Time!



The date has finally arrived. Guests will be arriving on your doorstep in minutes! You've prepared as much as possible ahead of time to ensure your plans run smoothly. A few finishing details should be all you need to make the event memorable.

Anticipate the comfort of your guests. Set appetizers in the living room, on the buffet, and in other places that make it easy to nibble. Play music and light candles for ambience.

Take guests' belongings when they arrive. Introduce people by pointing out what they have in

common with each other. Accept any gifts graciously and take to a discreet place so that other guests won't feel guilty if they didn't bring one.

Finally, stay out of the kitchen as much as possible so you can mingle with your guests and enjoy the party. And most importantly of all, you should enjoy yourself. Your holiday party should be for you as much as it is for your guests.

Conclusion

Preparing your home for Christmas doesn't have to be stressful. By taking the time to declutter, deep clean, and decorate thoughtfully, you can create a warm and inviting space that enhances the festive spirit. A well-organized home sets the stage for joyful gatherings, meaningful traditions, and cherished moments with loved ones. Whether you're hosting a big celebration or enjoying a quiet holiday with family, proper preparation allows you to fully embrace the magic of Christmas. With a little planning and effort, you can ensure a stress-free and memorable holiday season filled with love, laughter, and festive cheer.

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