

# Preparing Your Home for the Holidays Checklist

Getting your home ready for the holidays can be overwhelming. It can leave you feeling more like the Grinch than Martha Stewart. Focusing on one area at a time and creating a strategy of what can be prepared in advance can make things much more manageable.



## Guest-Ready Living Spaces

Before visions of sugar plums start to dance in your head, focus on **decluttering one room at a time**. Sort through items that accumulate in the drop-off points in your home and store things that are not used on a daily basis. **Designate a space to work** on crafts and wrap gifts, to avoid projects from spreading out over the whole house.

## Gift Wrap

It may have been years since you had young children in the houses. A box of assorted Legos, a stack of colored paper and a box of colored pencils lets their imaginations run wild while keeping those idle hands busy. For older kids who might be bored by the the adults' chit chat have on hand decks of cards or some classic games, such as Uno.

## In the Kitchen

Take the time now to **organize your pantry** to save you the headache of searching for the cranberry sauce you know you bought. Stock up on the items you need now. It will make your grocery list shorter and less daunting when shopping right before the big event. Rather than running the risk of leaving your favorite Tupperware at a relatives, get an assortment of disposable containers.

## Bed & Bath

Holidays often bring overnight guests. **Put together a basket of towels, wash clothes and extra toothbrushes**. Throw in some of the mini shampoos you've been hoarding from every hotel you've stayed at in the last decade.

Keep sets of clean sheets all together by slipping them inside the pillowcase. You are acclimated to the night-time temperatures of your house, but your guests are not. Track down extra blankets and have them handy.

## An Inviting Entry

With all the focus on the inside, don't forget about the outside. Make an inviting entry while also helping keep mud at bay with a cheery mat outside the front door. Take the time to check the lights along the front walkway and entry. Replacing burnt out lightbulbs or adding lights to especially dark areas helps make your home more inviting and safe.



Focusing on **one area at a time and prepping things in advance** will dial back the stress so that even when hosting you can enjoy the holiday merriment.