

12 Days to a Festive and Guest-Ready Home

Countdown to the holidays with this easy-to-follow checklist! Perfect for ensuring your home is guest-ready, organized, and bursting with holiday cheer.

DAY 1: Declutter Your Entryway

- Add hooks for coats and bags.
- Place a basket or tray for shoes.
- Decorate with a wreath or garland.
- Clear surfaces for holiday decor.

DAY 2: Deep Clean Key Areas

- Wipe down kitchen countertops and appliances.
- Scrub the guest bathroom sink and toilet.
- Restock hand soap, towels, and tissues.
- Vacuum or mop high-traffic areas.

DAY 3: Light It Up

- Hang string lights indoors or outdoors.
- Place candles in key spaces (e.g., mantel, dining table).
- Adjust lamps for warm, cozy lighting.
- Check light fixtures and replace any burnt-out bulbs.

DAY 4: Layer Cozy Textures

- Add throw blankets to sofas and chairs.
- Use holiday-themed pillows for extra comfort.
- Place rugs to define cozy spaces.
- Layer rugs for warmth and visual interest.

DAY 5: Prep the Kitchen

- Organize utensils and serving dishes.
- Stock up on pantry staples and holiday ingredients.
- Plan 2-3 easy-to-make dishes.
- Set up a beverage station (coffee, tea, or holiday drinks).

DAY 6: Stock Up on Essentials

- Buy extra paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues.
- Replenish cleaning supplies (e.g., surface sprays, sponges).
- Place essentials in easy-to-access spots for guests.
- Keep extras like batteries or light bulbs on hand.

BONUS TIPS

- Keep a "last-minute checklist" for final touches before guests arrive.
- Assign small tasks to family members to ease the load.
- Have a backup plan for any unexpected surprises.

DAY 7: Focus on Fragrance

- Light scented candles (pine, cinnamon, or vanilla).
- Simmer stove top potpourri with oranges and spices.
- Use fresh greenery or wreaths for natural aromas.
- Bake cookies or festive treats to fill the air with holiday scents.

DAY 8: Plan a Holiday Playlist

- Create playlists for dining, mingling, and relaxing.
- Mix holiday classics with modern hits.
- Share your playlist with guests ahead of time.
- Test your sound system or Bluetooth speakers.

DAY 9: Create Zones for Entertaining

- Set up a bar cart or beverage station.
- Arrange seating for conversation and comfort.
- Dedicate a table for desserts or appetizers.
- Use signage or decor to designate spaces (e.g., "Hot Cocoa Bar").

DAY 10: Set a Holiday Table

- Use elegant tableware (plates, glassware, napkins).
- Add a festive centerpiece (candles, greenery, or ornaments).
- Include holiday-themed place cards for a personal touch.
- Arrange settings before guests arrive to reduce last-minute stress.

DAY 11: Prep a Guest Gift

- Choose a small token (homemade cookies, wine, or ornaments).
- Wrap it with holiday-themed paper or ribbon.
- Add a handwritten note or tag for a personal touch.
- Place gifts on the table, in guest rooms, or by the door for departure.

DAY 12: Relax and Enjoy

- Light your favorite candle or enjoy your holiday lights.
- Pour yourself a festive drink or tea.
- Take a moment to reflect and enjoy your hard work.
- Snap a few photos to capture the memories!



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