

The Christmas Host Guide

A 4 WEEK COUNTDOWN TO HELP YOU
BE PREPARED THIS CHRISTMAS DAY

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4 WEEKS TO CHRISTMAS

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DECLUTTER THE DECORATIONS

BEFORE YOU START DECORATING, CHECK OVER EVERYTHING AND DONATE OR DISCARD THOSE THAT HAVE SEEN BETTER DAYS. WORK OUT WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO PURCHASE THIS YEAR, AND TRY TO DO THIS BEFORE YOU START HANGING DECORATIONS.

CHAT TO THE BUTCHER & FISHMONGER

GET INSPIRED BY YOUR LOCAL FRESH FOOD OFFERINGS AND FIND OUT WHAT THEY THINK WILL BE GREAT THIS CHRISTMAS. THEIR ADVICE CAN HELP YOU SETTLE ON YOUR MENU DECISIONS.

PLAN THE MENU

TAKE INSPIRATION FROM MAGAZINES AND COOKBOOKS, BUT TRY TO DO A TEST RUN OF ANY NEW RECIPES BEFORE THE DAY. USE PINTEREST AND INSTAGRAM TO GET INSPIRATION OF HOW YOU WANT YOUR FEAST TO LOOK.

FINISH ONLINE SHOPPING

ONLINE SHOPPING IS GREAT FOR AVOIDING THE CROWDS IN THE SHOPPING CENTRES, BUT DON'T FORGET TO ALLOW FOR TURNAROUND TIMES, SHIPPING AND THE BUSY POSTAL SERVICES. GET YOUR SHOPPING FINISHED THIS WEEK.

SET UP A COMMAND CENTRE

BUY A NEW NOTEBOOK AND USE IT FOR ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS LISTS. HAVING EVERYTHING IN ONE PLACE WILL HELP YOU FEEL IN CONTROL. FIND A PLACE IN YOUR HOME TO KEEP GIFTS THAT YOU'VE PURCHASED, GIFT TAGS AND WRAPPING PAPER.

TEST OUT THE GUEST ROOM

SPEND A NIGHT IN YOUR GUEST BEDROOM TO SPOT ANY ISSUES BEFORE THEY ARISE. DO THE PILLOWS NEED REPLACING, IS THERE LIGHT COMING IN THE BLINDS, ARE ALL LIGHTS AND LAMPS IN WORKING ORDER?



2 WEEKS TO CHRISTMAS

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DEEP CLEAN THE KITCHEN

CLEAN THE OVEN, SORT YOUR PANTRY AND CLEAN OUT THE FRIDGE. CHECK EXPIRATION DATES AND MAKE A LIST OF WHAT NEEDS TO BE REPLACED SO YOU ARE WELL STOCKED ONCE YOU START CHRISTMAS COOKING. CHECK YOUR SMALL APPLIANCES IF NEEDED - YOU DON'T WANT TO BE FACED WITH A BLOWN HAND MIXER ON CHRISTMAS MORNING!

GET THE BARBEQUE READY

CLEAN THE HOT PLATES, CHECK THE BOTTLED GAS AND STOCK UP ON BARBEQUE WIPES FOR EASY CLEANING OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON.

BEAT THE SUPERMARKET RUSH

NOW IS THE TIME TO BEAT THE CROWDS AND SHOP FOR YOUR NON-PERISHABLES - NOTHING WORSE THAN TRYING TO FIND CLOVES ON CHRISTMAS EVE! TAKE THE LIST FROM YOUR PANTRY CLEAN OUT TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T DOUBLE UP ON THINGS LIKE HERBS AND SPICES.

GET CRAFTY WITH THE KIDS

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS HAVE STARTED AND IT'S TIME TO EMBRACE KID-FRIENDLY DECORATIONS. CARDBOARD WREATHS, POMPOM GARLANDS AND PATTY PAN CHRISTMAS TREES ARE MOST LIKELY TO ADORN YOUR TREE FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS!

CHOOSE YOUR TABLE THEME

YOU DON'T NEED TO DO MUCH, BUT A CENTREPIECE IS A GREAT WAY TO DRESS UP YOUR TABLE! UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH SPACE YOU HAVE ON YOUR TABLE BY DOING A TRIAL RUN OF YOUR TABLEWEAR AND GLASSES.

PREP THE LINENS

FRESHLY LAUNDER YOUR TABLECLOTHS AND CLOTH NAPKINS AND MAKE SURE THEY'RE PRESSED AND READY FOR THE BIG DAY.



1 WEEK TO CHRISTMAS

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DEAL WITH THE OVERSIZED GIFTS

DON'T TRY TO WRAP LARGE GIFTS, INSTEAD WHY NOT HIDE IT SOMEWHERE SAFE AND POP A PHOTO OF THE PRESENT IN A CARD UNDER THE TREE WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR WHERE THE RECIPIENT CAN FIND IT (OR MAKE IT A TREASURE HUNT FOR THE KIDS!).

PREPARE SERVINGWARE

WORK OUT HOW AND WHAT YOU'LL BE SERVING YOUR MEALS ON. FIND A SPOT AND START GETTING TOGETHER THE SERVINGWARE, CROCKERY, CUTLERY AND GLASSES. TAKE IT A STEP FURTHER AND STICK A NOTE ON EACH DISH WITH WHAT FOOD IS TO GO ON IT (THIS WILL ALSO BE USEFUL IF YOU'VE GOT HELPERS IN THE KITCHEN ON CHRISTMAS DAY).



DONATE UNWANTED TOYS

GET THE KIDS TO HELP DECLUTTER THEIR TOYS - HELP THEM DONATE TOYS THEY'VE GROWN OUT OF AND CREATE SPACE FOR NEW THINGS THAT ARE COMING. IT'S A GREAT LESSON ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF GIVING AND HELPING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE.

CLEAR THE DECKS

IF YOU'RE ENTERTAINING OUTSIDE, CLEAN THE PATIO, OIL ANY DECKS AND GIVE THE FURNITURE A ONCE OVER. DO YOU NEED TO ADD ANY SHADE? UMBRELLAS OR SHADE SAILS CAN HELP TRANSFORM A HOT AND SUNNY SPOT!

STOCK THE BAR

DON'T RISK RUNNING OUT OF DRINKS ON CHRISTMAS DAY. IT'S BETTER TO HAVE TOO MUCH, THAN NOT ENOUGH. MAKE THE TRIP TO YOUR BOTTLE SHOP THIS WEEK AND STOCK UP (DON'T FORGET, LEFT OVERS CAN BE USED OVER THE HOLIDAY BREAK AND FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE). THINK ABOUT A CELEBRATORY BUBBLES, OR GREET GUESTS WITH A FESTIVE COCKTAIL.



CHRISTMAS EVE

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PREP THE DRINKS

GET ALL THE DRINKS IN THE FRIDGE, YOU CAN EVEN STOCK THE ESKIES WITH ICE LATER IN THE DAY. PREPARE ANY GARNISHES OR FRESH FRUIT FOR COCKTAILS, AND GET THE WINE GLASSES AND DECANTERS READY.

LIGHT THE WAY

IF YOU'RE HOSTING CHRISTMAS DINNER, TEST OUT YOUR LIGHTING AFTER THE SUN SETS. CHECK YOUR CANDLES, FAIRY LIGHTS AND TEA LIGHTS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE HAPPY AS THE DAY TURNS TO NIGHT AND THE PARTY CONTINUES.

SET THE TABLE

DON'T MISS OUT ON FAMILY TIME ON CHRISTMAS DAY, SET THE TABLE THE NIGHT BEFORE. YOU CAN TAKE YOUR TIME AND IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO WAKE UP AND SEE IT READY TO GO IN THE MORNING!

PLUG IN AND RECHARGE

MAKE SURE YOUR BATTERIES ARE AT HAND AND PUT ALL YOUR DEVICES ON TO CHARGE. NO DOUBT THERE WILL BE PRESENTS REQUIRING BATTERIES AND THERE IS NOTHING MORE DISAPPOINTING THAN HAVING TO WAIT TILL YOU CAN BUY MORE BATTERIES.

RECYCLE AND REUSE

TAKE THE DRAMA OUT OF DEALING WITH DISCARDED WRAPPING PAPER AND PLAN FOR IT. HAVE A BAG READY FOR PAPER THAT CAN BE RECYCLED, AND A BOX FOR ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KEEP AND REUSE (RIBBONS, PAPER, BOWS ETC.).

GET GUEST READY

FINALISE YOUR GUEST ROOM - TOWELS OUT, FRESH SHEETS, TOILET PAPER REFILLED AND A NOTE WITH THE WI-FI PASSWORD ON THE BEDSIDE TABLE!

