

Your Pre-Christmas Checklist

Christmas Decorations

- Wreaths
- Seasonal plants
- Pinecones
- Tinsel
- Christmas Tree
- New decorations
- Stockings for the fireplace
- Candles
- Fairy lights
- Mistletoe
- Christmas crackers
- Advent calendar

Gift Wrapping

- Gift bags
- Tissue paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Wrapping paper
- Cards
- Ribbon
- Pens
- Boxes

Essentials

- Find out your guest's dietary requirements
- Plan what meals you want to prepare
- Make a shopping list
- Don't forget table decor
- Stock up on basics like salt and butter
- Make sure you have enough seating
- Make a list of drinks you need
- Plan when you are going to cook the different dishes
- Delegate to family if you want to share the load

Starters & Snacks

- Biscuits and crackers
- Fresh bread
- Cheese
- Chestnuts
- Pâté
- Salmon or trout
- Prawn cocktail

Main Course Essentials

- Turkey
- Christmas ham
- Beef or lamb as alternatives
- Vegan or vegetarian options
- Roasting potatoes
- Parsnips
- Carrots
- Brussel sprouts
- Cabbage
- Bacon
- Broccoli
- Stuffing
- Cranberry sauce
- Horseradish sauce for beef
- Mustard for ham
- Mint for lamb
- Gravy
- Bread sauce
- Boxty
- Colcannon
- Butter

Dessert Options

- Christmas or plum pudding
- Christmas cake
- Brandy cream
- Trifle
- Irish coffee
- Mince pies
- Cherries
- Chocolates
- Marshmallows

Christmas Drinks

- Champagne
- Wine
- Sherry
- Mulled wine
- Beer
- Hot chocolate
- Tea
- Coffee
- Juice

Ambience

- Prepare festive snacks
- Make Christmas cocktails
- Play festive music
- Set up a festive photo booth

Opening Presents

- Delegate a 'Santa Claus' to hand out gifts
- Have a bag ready to collect wrapping
- Turn a heater on and give out blankets if need be
- Make coffee and hot chocolates for guests
- Have biscuits and snacks on hand
- Gather in a circle to open gifts together
- Don't forget this is a great photo opportunity!**

Christmas Meal Prep

- Place the meat in the oven early (set the alarm for yourself), so it will be ready for lunch or dinner
- Delegate tasks to family members so everyone feels part of the process
- Keep a warming drawer on so hot dishes stay warm
- Add last-minute touches
- Wash dishes as you go
- Don't forget the gravy!**

Setting the Table

- Knives and forks
- Napkins
- Christmas crackers
- Salt and pepper
- Condiments
- Placemats
- Place Cards
- Candles
- Wine, Champagne and water glasses
- Dessert bowls
- Spoons for dessert
- Dishing up spoons

Christmas Traditions

- Pull Christmas crackers together
- Create Christmas wreaths
- Watch a classic Christmas movie
- Write thank you letters to Santa
- Go for a walk to see all the Christmas lights
- Exchange Secret Santa gifts
- Decorate Christmas cookies
- Sing Christmas carols
- Go carolling
- Make a Yule Log
- Attend Midnight Mass
- Make paper snowflakes
- Wear Christmas hats