

# CHRISTMAS

## Countdown Checklist



### NOVEMBER

#### Entertainment & Food

- Decide on activities, events. Theme it even if you don't make that official. It makes decision making and shopping easier.
- Invite guests to Christmas activities & events.
- Order food (ham, pork, turkey).
- Make Christmas cake, pudding and biscuits.
- Eat through your freezer.

#### Gift giving

- Draw up a gift list of people for whom you need to buy presents.
- Start writing down present ideas.
- Start buying presents. For ideas check the 2021 Less Mess gift giving guide.
- Check supply of wrapping paper, cards, ribbons.
- Post overseas presents and cards - use an online service that sends real cards on your behalf like Touchnote.

#### General

- Take last year's received Christmas cards to produce list for this year - then throw last year's out!
- Purchase Christmas Cards - or go for electronic.
- Purchase Christmas stamps - or go for electronic.
- Check Christmas decoration & lights - buy new ones if necessary.
- Declutter toys with your children and donate to a charity. This is to make room for new gifts.

### DECEMBER

#### 3 weeks to go

##### Entertainment & Food

- Clean your freezer.
- Plan your Christmas food menu. Plan something you can prepare as far ahead as possible for at least parts of it - even better something that freezes well.
- Decide who does what (entree, dessert, alcohol, soft drinks etc.) Ask for help!!!
- Write up additional items list (bonbons, serviettes, glasses, chairs, table decorations...)
- Buy non-perishable food and drinks.
- Prepare whatever possible: chop onions, cheese, herbs... and freeze.

##### Gift Giving

- Continue purchasing presents.
- Make notes of what you bought for whom and where you hid it.

##### General

- Post Christmas cards - if you intend to send any.
- Put up Christmas tree & start with other decorations. With young children, don't feel you need to do it all at once, just do something every day.

#### 2 weeks to go

##### Entertainment & Food

- Clean your fridge and oven.

##### Gift Giving

- Wrap presents.
- Check your list for outstanding presents.
- Check whether any toys require batteries & if necessary, buy them now.

#### 1 week to go

##### Entertainment & Food

- Draw up timetable for Christmas lunch. From when to start defrosting the turkey to serving coffee & mints.
- Remind friends and family about their contributions

##### Gift Giving

- Wrap remaining presents

#### 2 days to go

##### Entertainment & Food

- Buy perishable food.
- Prepare what's possible.

##### Gift Giving

- Wrap remaining presents.

##### General

- Create a "Yes, you can help bowl". Write all the leftover tasks on little cards, place in a bowl and when people ask: "Can I help?", make them take one and action the task!

#### 1 day to go, Christmas Eve

##### Entertainment & Food

- Buy last minute food items.
- Set table the night before.

#### 25th December, Christmas Day

\* Enjoy  Christmas



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