

# Things to do BEFORE CHRISTMAS

## 1 month before

- decorate powder room with Holiday towels, candles and soap dispenser
- take a freezer inventory
- purchase/make Holiday cards
- stock booze for social evenings
- take inventory of the pantry
- confirm all of the addresses in your contact list are up-to-date
- buy stamps
- write Christmas cards and mail
- put up outdoor Christmas lights
- create a gift list (and budget) for your family
- prepare appetizers ahead of time and freeze
- send out "Open House" invitations
- decorate the kitchen
- decorate the family/great room
- decorate bedroom/s
- find a good hiding spot for your gifts
- create photo ornaments for grandparents
- make sure your shovel is in good condition and buy road salt so guests don't slip
- buy/make hot chocolate with marshmallows
- decorate foyer
- set aside time to make gifts, crafts and/or décor with the kids
- if buying items online - make sure to order early to ensure delivery before the Holidays
- buy/make a soft, snuggly blanket to wrap up in
- bake for the Holidays
- plant amaryllis/paperwhites
- go enjoy a Holiday Home tour
- donate toys, gifts and/or clothes to a needy charity
- donate money or food to your food bank
- participate and encourage RAK (random acts of kindness)
- clean - EVERYTHING
- pare down old toys to make room for new
- wrap Christmas books and open one each night leading up to Christmas Eve
- set up/make your advent calendar
- book your dog into the groomer for a pre-Christmas clean-up
- collect toy magazines to help with wish lists
- write letters to Santa
- organize your 'Secret Santa'
- book hotels/make travel arrangements if going places over the Holidays
- create a gift recipient list so as not to forget anyone
- bring out/ bring to life your Elf on the Shelf
- make sure you/the kids have attire for Christmas concerts, parties and work gatherings
- go to Christmas craft shows and charity events to support local entrepreneurs and get that one-of-a-kind gift
- take a family photo
- start your Christmas shopping

## 2 weeks before

- change all bedding
- stock soft drinks for mixers
- stock wine for meals
- wash down kitchen cupboards
- buy small gifts for service workers (mailman, garbage, recycling, snowplow etc)
- make or buy Teacher gifts
- make or buy neighbour gifts
- set up and decorate the Christmas tree
- buy/make gift wrap
- buy/make gift tags
- decorate your front door/porch
- buy Christmas candles/air fresheners
- buy/make "You've been Elfed" gifts for neighbourhood kids
- create a stocking stuffer list and budget
- buy stocking stuffers
- play Christmas music - Bing Crosby is a MUST
- clean - EVERYTHING (especially inside the oven)
- make ornaments with the kids
- set up or participate in a cookie exchange
- drive around and admire the Holiday lights
- go ice skating
- buy a coffee for the crossing guard/bus driver
- watch a Christmas movie
- drink egg nog
- organize and update your car emergency kit
- set up "Portable North Pole" app
- bake and decorate your gingerbread house
- plan your Holiday menu: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day (especially the morning) and Boxing Day
- if using fresh greenery - purchase them at a greenhouse and decorate indoors and out
- create a Christmas card display

## 1 week before

- set out guest towels & toiletries
- dust cobwebs from guest (all) rooms
- buy your Holiday meal ingredients (dinner and breakfast)
- set aside time to wrap gifts
- make sure you have enough toilet paper
- keep one spare gift wrapped under the tree for surprise guests
- set aside time to enjoy your family, home and décor
- sip cocoa in front of a fire
- read a book
- snuggle in flannel sheets
- buy new pajamas - for the kids and you too!
- polish your silverware
- buy/make Thank You cards
- deliver gifts/baking to friends and neighbours
- organize the pantry and fridge to make room for extra food
- prepare school treats for the end-of-year party
- prepare/set up your Holiday tablescape
- tidy - EVERYTHING

## Christmas Eve

- have the kids read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and film it
- go for a winter walk with the family
- leave cookies out for Santa
- don't clean a thing
- Stop and enjoy the moments you have been working a month to achieve
- take a photo of the kids in front of the tree
- call family and wish them Happy Holidays