2013 Holiday Planner

10 things to do to get ready for the holidays

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Homemaker's Challenge
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Ten things to do this fall to get ready for the holidays

1. Make lists. Who are you inviting for Thanksgiving? Who gets cards, cookies deliveries, or gifts? What gifts do you need to buy? If you make a list now, you can look for sales.

2. Deep-clean the house. Especially areas where you'll be celebrating, or where you'll have guests. I love a clean house on Christmas morning.

3. Plan menus and try new recipes. Want to try something new for a holiday meal? Try it once now, before you have guests over, to avoid a flop on the big day. What's more, you'll know what you ingredients you need to look for in the big sales leading up to the holidays.

4. Make travel plans. Where are you staying? How are you getting there? What are you packing? Make arrangements now.

5. Start handmade gifts now. I always end up sewing madly the week before Christmas, or just buying something new instead. Starting now will help me relax when the holidays arrive.

6. Stock emergency gifts. I always end up spending extra at the last minute when I realize I forgot to put someone on my gift shopping list, or when I need a hostess gift. I like to keep a stash of generic gifts in my closet for those occasions.

7. Evaluate your family's traditions. Do you like your traditions? Do you want to start anything new? If you want to make any changes, now is a good time to discuss it so you can prepare.

8. Make a holiday calendar. The holidays usually end up being jam-packed with celebrations and obligations. Start planning now so you will be able to fit everything in.

9. Start a to-do list. I have a hard time relaxing if there are ten things floating around my head that I need to do. Writing them down will free up your brain—and help you remember what you need to get done!

10. Simplify. The holidays can be overwhelming. You don't have to do it all! Is there anything you can cut out?

Start making lists

Thanksgiving guests • Cookies to make • Gifts to buy • Christmas card list • etc.

More space for lists

Things to clean

These are just suggestions: feel free to cross off anything that doesn't need to be done (who needs extra work?) and add anything you'd like to do.

Kitchen and dining room

Oven
Stove
Scrub kitchen floor
Wipe down cabinets
Clean and polish table and chairs

_____
_____
_____
_____

Living area

Vacuum couches
Vacuum under furniture
Dust
Deep clean around fireplace and mantel

_____
_____
_____
_____

Bathrooms

Deep-clean toilet
Shine sinks and mirrors
Clean shower and bath
Launder bath mat
Scrub floor
Put out something that smells like the holidays, like an unlit candle or some potpourri

_____
_____
_____
_____

Menu planning

New recipes to try

Travel plans

Handmade gift planner

Emergency gift ideas

Things to do

October

2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November

2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December

2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January

2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	