

a maker's guide to tackling the holidays



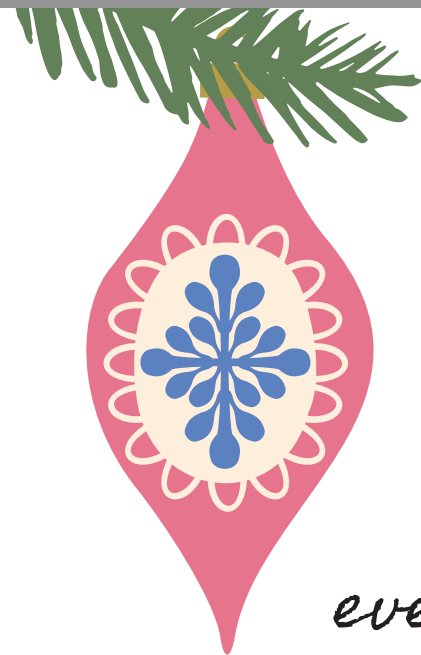
MAKING YOUR LISTS

gift list

- List friends, family and colleagues you have to buy for.
- Set your budget.
- Group together what you plan to buy online, in store, and make yourself.
- Identify the gifts you need to ship out.

event list



- Create a social calendar of holiday engagements (work parties, dinners, etc).
- Take note of people that you'll see pre-holidays so that their gifts are prepared in time.
- If you're hosting, start a tentative menu.
- If you're planning on hiring someone to clean your home for the big day, now would be a great time to book them.





GET IN THE SPIRIT!

week of november 26th

- Use this day as an excuse to get a few deals online and in-store.
Note: This should mark the beginning of your gift hunt.
 - Decide on your advent calendar.
 - If you plan to do photo-based holiday cards, you'll want to have the photos taken ASAP.
 - Buy stamps to have on hand.
 - Hang your mistletoe.
 - Make your holiday playlist.
 - Decorate! Dust off pervious decorations or buy some new ones to add to the collection.
 - Hang your elf on the shelf.
 - If you plan to make handmade cards - get started.
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week of december 3rd

- Purchase a Christmas tree.
Note: Freshly cut trees and other greenery will last a month so you're safe to buy from now onwards.
- Advent calendar day!
- Finalize your menus, guest lists and draft a shopping list.
- Things that you plan to freeze can be made anytime and will keep for the month.
- Write and mail out those holiday cards! Three weeks before Christmas is optimal time for sending out cards.
- Send out letters to Santa.
- Put up your outdoor lights.
- Organize a secret Santa or a cookie exchange.



DECEMBER 2ND: HAPPY HANNUKAH!

Jewish festival that lasts eight days



week of december 10th

- Gift wrapping reminder! Doing this early will allow you to think about other things.
- Last day to mail out gifts!
- Beat the lines and get your photo with Santa before the rush.
- Buy booze! Save yourself from long lines by buying booze now. You can return what you don't use after the holidays.
- Do your baking for a work cookie exchange.

week of december 17th

- Do a quick check of all the centrepieces, dishes, serving plates and cutlery you'll need to feed everyone. Is there anything you don't have?
- Build and decorate your gingerbread house.
- Adopt a new tradition like making an annual ornament.
- Host your secret Santa before everyone heads off for the break.



DECEMBER 21ST

- Ten second tidy anyone? Use this weekend to clean and get your home ready for all the guests.
- Are family staying the night? Do you have enough sleeping room for everyone? Get those rooms and bathrooms ready.
- Second gift-wrapping reminder!
- Besides last-minute purchases save yourself the anxiety of last-minute holiday shopping and plan to be wrapped up (pun intended) by the 21st!



DECEMBER 23RD

- Buy all your fresh ingredients!
Note: Buy a couple packs of batteries while you're out. This ensures that when a child gets a battery operated gift, you aren't left taking batteries out of a remote.
- Start stuffing those stockings!
- Last day of school! Send your kids with teacher gifts.

DECEMBER 24TH

- If you're someone who doesn't like baking and freezing way in advance, use the day before Christmas to make your desserts.
Note: Cookies, cakes and other sweet treats are always perfect the day after as well!

DECEMBER 25TH

YOU MADE IT!

Merry
Christmas



DECEMBER 26TH: HAPPY KWANZAA

African American celebration of cultural heritage and traditional values

EXTRA NOTES:
