

# GUIDE TO YOUR WINTER WONDERLAND

1. Remove all existing accessories in your home.
2. Fluff all branches of any artificial Christmas foliage you plan to use.
3. Remove tags off everything, lights, trees, ornaments...everything!
4. When adding lights, start in the middle of the string and move each direction. This will ensure even lighting throughout the tree.
5. Use stompers, slappers or timers on your lights to turn them on and off easily.

\* Hint, if you find one with multiple outlets BUY IT!

6. When packing your decorations after Christmas, think about next year and how you would want to access everything.

\* Tip - I store all ornaments by color!

7. Place baggies of hangers into each tub of ornaments.

*Prepare your home*



# GUIDE TO YOUR HOLIDAY THEME

- Country Cabin
- Crystal Elegance
- Cupcake Heaven
- Department 56 Other
- Dickens' Village
- Enchanted Garden
- Fairy Whispers
- Fantasy Collection
- Fashion Avenue
- Flower Power
- Gingerbread Kisses
- Happy Hour
- Harvest Crossing
- Heaven and Earth
- Humming Bird Way
- Ice Palace
- Icy Crystal
- In The Birches
- Luck of the Irish
- Modern Lodge
- Mod Holiday
- Mouse-Ville
- Nature's Glow
- Nature's Story Teller
- North Pole Series
- Peppermint Twist
- Pizza Shop
- Pretty in Pink
- Princess Garden
- Regal Peacock
- Retro Santa
- Rich Plum
- Rustic Lodge
- Santa Claus Classics
- Santa's Wonderland
- Shades of Christmas Past
- Silver Splendor
- Snow Babies
- Snow Drift
- Snow Dudes
- Snowfall Valley
- Snow Village
- Sugared Fruit
- Through the Woods
- Tuscan Winery
- 'Tween Christmas
- Under the Sea
- Vail Village
- Victorian Plum
- Wild West
- Winter Frost
- Winter's Blush
- Winter Solace
- Woodland Inspirations

*pick a theme*



# 10 STEPS TO THE PERFECT TREE

1. Set up the tree and FLUFF the branches.
2. Light your tree. If pre-lit, run specialty lights down the center.
3. Create a fabulous topper for your tree.
4. Ribbons and garland are a must.
5. Decorate anchor points to your ribbons and garland.
6. Add spinners to animate your tree.
7. Add your ornaments and balls, make sure you go all the way to the trunk of the tree.
8. Ice the tips of your tree with icicles and hanging beads.
9. Add a stomper, slapper or timer to your tree for easy use.
10. Add a tree skirt or fabric at the base of your tree.

*Before you begin...*

If you plan to hang anything from the ceiling above your tree do that FIRST! Otherwise you won't be able to reach it.



# GUIDE TO YOUR TECHNICAL ISSUES

Blah, Blah, Blah....but important!

The amount of electricity an extension cord can handle is important. If you plan to have heavy-duty lighting, or large numbers of connected devices you will want a heavy duty cord.

In that case, both the length and gauge are important. The higher the gauge, the thinner the wire or cord, and the less amperage it can safely handle. Also, the longer a wire becomes, the less amperage it can hold as well. So always use the shortest possible extension cords you can if doing some large-scale lighting.

Lights can be tricky to use. Indoors, lights appear much brighter due to the close quarters. Because of that, although they are certainly usable, it may be wise to be careful about the use of large bulbs or LED lights.

Common places for lights are to string them on the mantle with the other decorations, on a banister or room dividing railing, traveling up stairs, or even outlining a door or doorway. I like to incorporate some soft twinkling lights throughout to add that touch of whimsy. There are plenty of ideas that can be used in indoor decorations. Just make sure that any power sources are within reach, and that no hazards are being created.

Find what works best for you, and have fun making your holiday shine!

*Safety FIRST!*



# GUIDE TO HOW MUCH YOU NEED

How Much STUFF Do You Need?

Lights: 200 per foot...

Add twinkle or colored lights down the center 100 – 200 lights depending on tree height. Add an additional string of 50 lights to add to tree topper.

Spinners: 12 minimum or 2 per foot of tree.

Stompers or slappers: 1-2 depending on mixture of LED (warm white) and standard mini Christmas tree lights.

Ribbon: 40 yards of main connecting ribbon, 30 yards for each additional style or more depending on tree size.

Garland: One 9' garland per foot of tree height.

Ornaments: Gosh, what can I say... I guess I need to add mine up!

OK, I just counted and it appears I have approximately 200 balls and ornaments on my 8' tree this year.

*... but how much?*



# GUIDE TO HOW MUCH YOU NEED

## But here's what Google says...

For the first 8 feet of a Christmas tree, each foot needs at least 12 medium to standard sized ornaments per foot totaling:

2 foot= 24 ornaments

3 foot= 36 ornaments

4 foot= 48 ornaments

5 foot= 60 ornaments

6 foot= 72 ornaments

7 foot= 84 ornaments

8 foot= 96 ornaments

As the tree grows in height the base grows in width so...

For 9 and 10 ft. trees you need to add 18 ornaments for each of the bottom feet.

9 foot=  $18+96=114$  ornaments

10 foot=  $18+114=132$  ornaments

For 11 and 12' trees add 24 ornaments for each of the bottom feet.

11 foot=  $24+132=156$  ornaments

12 foot=  $24+156=180$  ornaments

For each additional foot after 12' add 30 ornaments each.

\* Important note- If you are mixing sizes of ornaments and using a lot of tiny, small, medium, large, and huge ornaments, these numbers will go up or down based on the sizes of ornament.

*Add it up!*



# DECORATING TIPS

## SUMMARY

Remove and store all your existing accessories in areas you plan to decorate so you have a clean uncluttered blank slate to begin your Christmas decorating. This will elevate that feeling of overwhelming stuff everywhere!

Plan well in advance where you will decorate and purchase early in order to have the best pick of items for your home.

Select a color scheme and think about items that will tie your decor from room to room connecting the spaces. Example might be snowflakes, snow-laden branches, twigs, pine cones, wire rimmed ribbon or a specific color of glass ornaments.

Use one or two of these elements to tie into the majority of your decorations without being matchy/matchy. Too much of a good thing is too much of a good thing.

Think outside the box. Decorate in unexpected ways in unexpected places. Example ... create magic by hanging snowflakes and icicles in places that add magic to your holidays. Lights, lights and more lights. ALWAYS on dimmers and be careful of blinking or flashing lights. They can add chaos other than magic!

Leave your family and friends in a state of awe and wonder as they walk through your home. Doesn't have to be expensive... just needs to be creative and breathtaking.

*Helpful hints*



# DECORATING TIPS

## SUMMARY

When decorating your Christmas tree...Go deep!

By that I mean...

1. Place your bauble ornaments deep inside the tree near the trunk, leaving the outer branches for your more decorative collectable ornaments and icicles.
2. Use a dozen or so rotating motors (replaces miniature light bulbs on a string of lights) for your favorites. This adds life and animation to your tree.
3. Run a string of soft twinkling lights down the center of the tree for that true sense of magic.
4. Larger balls and ornaments on the bottom and smaller at the top.
5. Create a crescendo at the top of your tree... an explosion of good will and cheer as it were!

*Have fun with it!*

