

# Organizing Tips For The Holidays

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The holiday season is a joyous time of year filled with family, friends, and special gatherings. It can also be filled with stress and frustration as you face a dizzying array of holiday demands. Following are some practical organizing tips to help you minimize stress levels so you can focus more on family, food, and fun throughout the season:

## Tip #1: Organize Holiday Cookware

Most kitchens aren't large enough to store cookware that you use only once a year. Keep the turkey platter, roasting pan, holiday linens, and table decorations together in a clearly labeled box and stored in another location other than your kitchen. When the holiday season arrives, simply retrieve your holiday cookware container and enjoy having everything easily accessible when you need it.

## Tip #2: Create a Holiday Organizer

Keep a binder filled with stamps, address labels, Christmas card and gift lists, receipts, favorite recipes, and fun decorating ideas to help you stay on top of the holiday season.

## Tip #3: Create An Open-Me-First-Box

Holiday decorating can be a bit overwhelming causing many people to procrastinate until the last minute. One trick to getting yourself motivated for the season is to create an open-me-first-box that contains items such as: Santa hats, Christmas CDs, Christmas cards, and a few other items to inspire you into decorating.

## Tip #4: Wrap As You Go

Each year, the average family spends three hours wrapping Christmas gifts (Consumer Reports). Prevent frantic late night Christmas Eve wrapping by wrapping presents as you buy them. Keeping all of your wrapping supplies together in one place will help assist you in your wrapping needs.

## Tip #5: Store Decorations The Way You Use Them

If you tend to decorate the same way each year, then store your decorations in separate containers labeled by room. Labeling specific items will also help you know which garland to hang in the entryway and which strand of lights fits perfectly over the mantel. If you like to mix up your displays each year, then store decorations by type such as all of the indoor lights in one box, all of the garland in another, and so forth.

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