

One of the Elves

Somehow, you always manage to get it all done. But this is the year for One of the Elves to have more fun. So we've made a list and you can check it twice. Whether you do one or all, we hope it helps take the hassle out of the holidays.

PRE-THANKSGIVING

MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH IMPORTANT DATES

- Include date nights, work parties and family gatherings

FIRM UP TRAVEL PLANS

- Book early so your family can sit together — or not
- Find out for sure who plans to stay at your house

SCHEDULE HOLIDAY APPOINTMENTS

- Avoid babysitter bidding wars – book Nov. and Dec. nights out
- Make salon appointments (you're going to need them)

DECORATE FOR THANKSGIVING

- Set the mood and wow guests with a Thanksgiving tablescape
- Clean place settings and polish the silver

PLAN THANKSGIVING MEAL

- Is it time to rethink the green bean casserole? How many pies are enough? These are some of the most important decisions of the season. Go through family recipes and favorite food sites and decide on menu
- Make a grocery list and place food orders

GET ORGANIZED FOR HOLIDAY GIFT SHOPPING

- Set a budget and vow to stick to it
- Make a list; include sizes and hobbies. (Don't forget teachers, coaches and your least-favorite aunt)

PLAN BLACK FRIDAY SHOPPING

- Scout Black Friday sales and make a game plan
- Invite family and friends to share in the excitement

AFTER THANKSGIVING

DECORATE! DECORATE! DECORATE!

- Outdoor decorating day!
- Pick out your tree or get it down from the attic; hang stockings

CHRISTMAS CARDS

- Upload your favorite family vacation photo, order cards and vow to get them mailed before Christmas day

GET READY FOR WRAPPING

- Shop the world's best collection of wrap, ribbons and totes (don't forget shipping supplies)
- Brush up on your wrapping skills by staying for one of our Wrap Parties. (There'll be cider, treats and a chance to win a Customizable Gift Wrap Organizer Kit!)

PLAN FOR HOMEMADE GIFTS

- Make those M&Ms look incredible by stocking up on fabulous containers, ribbons and gift tags
- Find inspiration for homemade gifts at containerstore.com/blog

USE YOUR SOCIAL SITES FOR FUN KIDS' ACTIVITIES

- What will your Elf on a Shelf be doing this year?

KNOCK OUT AT LEAST 2/3 OF YOUR SHOPPING LIST

- Take a breather and take advantage of free shipping offers (we've got free shipping when you spend \$75)
- Don't forget stocking stuffers, wine sacks and other hostess gifts

ENJOY A HOLIDAY PARTY AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE

- Don't forget to take your hostess gift

PUT TOGETHER A PLAN FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

- Pictures in PJs? Turkey or ham? And when are you opening gifts? Everyone wants to know

UNCORK A BOTTLE OF WINE AND START WRAPPING

- Wrap a few extra gifts for unexpected visitors or last-minute additions to your list and arrange presents under the tree

HIT THE POST OFFICE BEFORE DECEMBER 18TH

DON'T FORGET THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

- From Angel Trees to food banks, there are lots of ways to give. We're giving kids Holiday Hugs by collecting gifts for young patients staying in local children's hospitals

RED ZONE – THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS!

RELAX, YOU'VE GOT ALMOST EVERYTHING DONE! TOAST YOURSELF.

LOAD UP THE CAR AND DRIVE THROUGH NEIGHBORHOODS "OOHING" AND "AAHING" OVER CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

PICK UP PASTRIES FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING

PUT TOGETHER A PLATE OF COOKIES FOR SANTA (SAVE ONE FOR YOURSELF) AND A CARROT FOR RUDOLPH

ENJOY A KISS UNDER THE MISTLETOE

#HOLIDAYBRAG

From stunning decorations and beautiful bows to clever party favors, it's your turn to show off for a chance to win! Post pics using #HolidayBrag or enter at containerstore.com/holidaycontest.

Nov. 10 – Dec. 2 Brag a bit about how you ENTERTAIN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Dec. 3 – Dec. 16 Show us your HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Dec. 17 – Dec. 31 Brag some more about your WRAPPED PACKAGES and/or HOMEMADE GIFTS