

YOUR Christmas CHECKLIST

Pre-November

- If you want hyacinths to bloom in time for Christmas, prepared hyacinth bulbs need to be planted in September.
- Make Christmas chutney, especially if you have a glut of apples. This makes a great gift as well as accompaniment for your Christmas dinner.

November (or earlier)

- Real Christmas trees arrive in Hillier Garden Centres from mid to late November. Make a date and let us help you select the perfect one. When you bring it home, stand the tree in a bucket of water outside until you are ready to bring it in and decorate. Saw off half an inch from the bottom to allow it to better take up water and minimise needle drop.

- Purchase your advent calendar / candle

December

- Decorate your Christmas tree. Depending on your traditions and preferences, this could be any time between the end of November and Christmas Eve.
- Hang a wreath from your front door. You can choose to make your own, including decorations, lights and foliage from your garden or find ready-made artificial or natural wreaths at Hillier Garden Centres.
- Decorate your home. Review your existing decoration collection and make sure nothing is broken. Adding a small number of statement decorations each year is a simple and sustainable way to refresh. Try our personalisation service, new for 2020, for a unique new decoration - also great for gifts. Have some fun with curated shelf displays, or use your stair bannister as a focal point for decorations. Create atmosphere with creative lighting both inside and around your garden.
- Bring the natural world into your home with festive houseplants – poinsettias, schlumbergera (Christmas cactus) and orchids are some of the most popular plants of the season. They also make great gifts as an alternative to wine / food items when visiting friends and family over the festive period.

- Purchase Christmas gifts. Wrap and post any that are not able to be delivered by hand. The last day for posting parcels and cards within the UK to ensure Christmas delivery according to the Royal Mail is Monday 21st December (1st Class). International cards and parcels need to be sent in early December.

- Make sure you have all the little essentials in your home – wrapping paper, scissors, sticky tape, spare batteries, Christmas crackers.

Christmas Eve

- Wrap Christmas presents and place under the tree (we know some people like to do this well in advance of Christmas Eve!). You may choose to keep one item to exchange on Christmas Eve.
- Lay the table for Christmas lunch. Doing this on Christmas Eve allows you to discover any unexpected hiccups – like not enough clean glasses – as well as creating a beautiful backdrop on Christmas Day and leaving one less thing to do.
- Hang stockings if you have small ones at home and make sure you have a carrot, small tippie and mince pie for Father Christmas and his reindeer

Christmas Day

- Turn on the oven in plenty of time
- Make sure to have something for breakfast, particularly if you're planning a late lunch
- Have a wonderful day!

After Christmas

- Remember to leave your real Christmas tree out for your local council's Christmas tree collection service if they do one
- Think about how you can re-use or recycle as much of your Christmas as possible - for example by keeping and re-using gift bags and bringing out decorations at other times of year