



Thanksgiving Preparation Checklist

15 simple things to help busy moms prepare without the last-minute rush

Start early • Keep it simple • Share the workload

1. PLAN YOUR THANKSGIVING

- ☐ Decide where and how we'll celebrate
- ☐ Decide whether we're hosting, traveling, or keeping it small
- ☐ Create the guest list
- ☐ Confirm who is coming
- ☐ Ask about food allergies and dietary needs
- ☐ Decide which family traditions matter most

2. PLAN THE FOOD

- ☐ Choose the main dish
- ☐ Plan side dishes
- ☐ Choose desserts
- ☐ Plan drinks and snacks
- ☐ Decide what can be made ahead
- ☐ Write down the final menu

3. SHOP & STOCK UP

- ☐ Check the pantry
- ☐ Check the refrigerator
- ☐ Check the freezer
- ☐ Create the grocery list
- ☐ Buy non-perishable ingredients
- ☐ Buy Thanksgiving supplies
- ☐ Plan when to buy fresh ingredients

4. PREPARE THE HOME

- ☐ Reset the entryway
- ☐ Tidy the living area
- ☐ Clean the guest bathroom
- ☐ Clear kitchen counters
- ☐ Prepare the dining area
- ☐ Check chairs and table space





Thanksgiving Week at a Glance

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2-3 WEEKS BEFORE

- ☐ Finalize Thanksgiving plans
- ☐ Create guest list
- ☐ Ask about dietary needs
- ☐ Plan the menu
- ☐ Check kitchen equipment
- ☐ Start your shopping list

1 WEEK BEFORE

- ☐ Buy non-perishable ingredients
- ☐ Confirm guests
- ☐ Confirm who is bringing dishes
- ☐ Create your cooking schedule
- ☐ Plan kids' activities
- ☐ Start your home reset

2-3 DAYS BEFORE

- ☐ Buy remaining fresh ingredients
- ☐ Prepare make-ahead dishes
- ☐ Complete food preparation that can safely be done early
- ☐ Make space in the refrigerator
- ☐ Set aside serving dishes
- ☐ Organize kids' activities
- ☐ Review the Thanksgiving schedule

THANKSGIVING DAY

- ☐ Follow the cooking schedule
- ☐ Keep food-safety steps in mind
- ☐ Let family members help
- ☐ Set up kids' activities
- ☐ Take a few minutes for yourself
- ☐ Save leftovers safely
- ☐ Make memories with your family



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You do not have to do everything yourself to make Thanksgiving special.