



## How to...



**LOTS OF LIGHTS**

An estimated 150 million sets of holiday lights are sold in the US every year.

# Decorate for the holidays

**Adding special touches to your home can help you get into the spirit of the season.**

Now that it's December, you and your family may want to decorate your home for the holidays or for winter. You may have decorating traditions that you maintain each year, but it can also be fun to add extra touches that will make your home feel festive. As the days get colder, you might be spending more time indoors, which is another reason to add some decorations. Here are some ways to get started.

### Take inventory

It's always a good idea to start with decorations you already have, instead of buying new ones. Even if a parent has already put up some holiday items, there might be leftover decorations you could put in your bedroom. You could also ask if there are any extra supplies from other holidays or events, such as a birthday party, that you could use.

### Be creative

It's fun to come up with new ways to use decorations. For example, if you discover an extra strand of lights, you could drape them over a bed frame or the doorway to your living room. A collection of dreidels could be put in a bowl at your entryway table, or you could decorate a bookshelf with them. You could use festive wrapping paper to cover your front door or the door to your room.



**Create your own snow.**

### Start crafting

If you have glitter, stickers, or puffy paints, ask an adult if you can use them to decorate plain tree ornaments. Add the year to the ornament so you'll always remember when you made it. Snowflakes cut out from white or blue paper are easy to make and look great as decorations. To make them, fold white paper into quarters and then cut out several shapes. Unfold the paper to reveal the snowflake. With an adult's help, hang the snowflakes from a ceiling with clear string. Or you could tape snowflakes to your windows to create a snowy setting.

Finally, you could cut out a large piece of a cardboard box, paint it, and write a festive message on it, such as "Light up the night" or "Let it snow." Display it like artwork on a shelf.

### Bring toys into the decorations

If you have Lego bricks on hand, you could use them to create a tiny menorah or miniature Christmas tree to display on your bedside table. If you have a collection of animal or superhero figures, you could use construction paper to create winter hats to put on them and display them on your desk or shelves. If you have a playhouse or a toy tent set up in your room or playroom, add some decorations, like a string of lights or paper snowflakes.

## 4 decorating ideas from other nations

Find out how people around the world show their holiday spirit.

### Boats with lights

In Greece, it's traditional at Christmas to see boats decked out with lights and ornaments as a symbol of new life and to thank sailors who devoted their life to the sea.

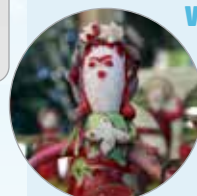


### Vegetable carvings

At farmers markets in Oaxaca, Mexico,

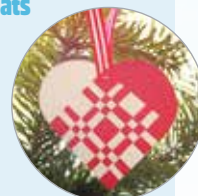
radishes carved

into images of holiday scenes and local wildlife are sold. People buy them to display in their homes.



### Baskets of treats

Children in Norway make heart-shaped baskets from paper. Known as *julekurver* baskets, they are hung in homes or on Christmas trees in hopes they'll be filled with nuts and candy.



### Glowing candles

During the Hanukkah holiday in Israel, especially on the eighth and final night, many people place menorahs in specially designed glass boxes outside their home or business.

