



Thanksgiving to New Year, week by week

Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 26. Tick each line as it is done.

WHEN	WHAT TO DO
☐ Sat-Sun, Nov 14-15	Buy squash, pie pumpkins and pomegranates for the Thanksgiving table. Pomegranates keep 1-2 weeks on a counter out of the sun. (UC Master Food Preservers)
☐ Fri, Nov 20	Turkey of 20-24 lb into the fridge (thawing takes 24 hours per 4-5 lb). (Minnesota Dept. of Health)
☐ Sat, Nov 21	Turkey of 16-20 lb into the fridge. (Minnesota Dept. of Health)
☐ Sun, Nov 22	Turkey of 12-16 lb into the fridge. (Minnesota Dept. of Health)
☐ Wed, Nov 25	Set the table. Lay a paper cut-out of every serving dish where it will go; mark each spot with a sticky note.
☐ Thu, Nov 26	Thanksgiving. Perishable food off the table within 2 hours; leftovers eaten within 3-4 days. (Minnesota Dept. of Health)
☐ Fri, Nov 27	Squash to the porch. Measure the ceiling for the tree and the mantel for the garland (sheet 3).
☐ Sat-Sun, Nov 28-29	Buy the tree. Stand holds 1 quart of water per inch of trunk; water it every day. Throw out light strings with frayed wires. (National Christmas Tree Association; U.S. Fire Administration)
☐ Week of Nov 30	Tree: lights on first, then ornaments. Keep it 3 feet from fireplaces, heaters and vents. (U.S. Fire Administration)
☐ Sat-Sun, Dec 5-6	Mantel and garland. Candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. (U.S. Fire Administration)
☐ Sat-Sun, Dec 12-13	Front door: wreath = door width minus 12 inches. (The Painted Hinge)
☐ Thu-Fri, Dec 24-25	Christmas table. Same 2-hour rule for the food. (Minnesota Dept. of Health)
☐ Early January	Take the tree down once it dries out — a dry tree burns hot and fast. (U.S. Fire Administration)

MY OWN DATES

Count guests first, then dishes. Hosts expect nine guests on average (Butterball, 2025).

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The numbers to decorate by

Pin it inside a cupboard door. Sourced figures name their source; the others are trade rules of thumb.

WHAT	THE NUMBER	SOURCE
Christmas tree height	Ceiling height minus about 1 ft	rule of thumb
Mini lights on the tree	About 100 per foot of tree height	rule of thumb
Ornaments	10-20 per foot of tree height	rule of thumb
Tree stand water	1 quart per inch of trunk diameter	National Christmas Tree Association
Tree and heat	At least 3 ft from fireplaces, radiators, heaters, vents; water daily	U.S. Fire Administration
Candles	At least 12 in from anything that burns	U.S. Fire Administration
Mantel garland	1.5-2 × the mantel length	rule of thumb
Front door wreath	Door width minus 12 in (24 in on a 36 in door)	The Painted Hinge
Place at the table	At least 24 in of table edge per guest	Dimensions.com
Centerpiece height	Below a raised fist (about 12-14 in), or thin and above eye level	rule of thumb
Turkey thawing (fridge)	24 hours per 4-5 lb	Minnesota Dept. of Health
Food on the table	Back in the fridge within 2 hours	Minnesota Dept. of Health
Pomegranates as decor	1-2 weeks at room temperature	UC Master Food Preservers

MY MEASUREMENTS

CEILING HEIGHT

MANTEL LENGTH

FRONT DOOR WIDTH

TABLE LENGTH × WIDTH

NUMBER OF GUESTS

TO BUY BEFORE DECEMBER

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____