

2-3 WEEKS BEFORE

MAKE YOUR GUEST LIST

PLAN YOUR MENU

- Decide if you would like guests to bring a side dish/dessert
- Decide if your dinner will be buffet or sit-down

CREATE A LIST OF EVERYTHING YOU'LL NEED TO PURCHASE AND GATHER.

- Go grocery shopping for all non-perishable items. Purchase all non-perishable items on your shopping list. Don't forget items like aluminum foil, plastic wrap, cooking spray, paper towels or other cleaning supplies. You can also download our grocery list maker to help you. *Don't forget to include table decorations like candles, table linens, flowers, etc.*

TAKE INVENTORY AND MAKE SURE YOU HAVE:

- Table (one large enough for all your guests)
- Chairs for all of your guests — if you need to ask guests to BYOC (bring your own chairs)
- Dinner plates, dessert plates, coffee cups and saucers:
if you can't match everything, mix and match coordinating colors, styles or textures.
- Silverware: Salad fork, Dinner fork, Teaspoon, Soup spoon, Butter knife
- Glassware: Water glasses and wine/drinking glasses
- Table Linens: Napkins and tablecloth
- Serving Dishes and Ware
- Bowls and utensils for all your dishes, including a breadbasket, sugar bowl, creamer and gravy boat. Also remember hot pads and trivets for serving hot dishes.
- Roasting Pan
- Coffee Pot

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ONE WEEK UNTIL THANKSGIVING!

THURSDAY

It's National Thaw Day!

- Take your frozen turkey out of the freezer and begin refrigerator thawing (recommended method). Allow one day of thawing for each four pounds of turkey. A thawed turkey may remain in the refrigerator for four days before cooking.
- Wash all your holiday dishes, serving plates, and flatware that you will be using at this year's dinner. Iron all tablecloths and cloth napkins.

FRIDAY

- Make a final shopping list – Include ice, cream for the coffee and nuts for nibbling in the livingroom.

SATURDAY

- Head to the grocery store for all the perishable items on your shopping list. Don't forget to pickup disposable take-home containers for leftovers.

MONDAY

- Decorate the house. Pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn and wheat make festive touches. Settle on a seating arrangement and make place cards.

TUESDAY

- Make a schedule of when you need to put all your different dishes in the oven to be ready at your scheduled dining time.
- Bake desserts and side dishes that can be refrigerated a few days before

WEDNESDAY (THE DAY BEFORE)

- Make your table centerpiece. *See our Dressing up your Table ideas.*
- Set the table.
- Pick out your outfit and iron it.
- Clear out the coat closet for guest coats.
- Clean the guest bathroom and put clean towels in the bathroom.

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THURSDAY (THANKSGIVING DAY)

- Eat breakfast — everyone will be happier if they aren't trying to get ready hungry.
- Make the stuffing in the morning and stuff the turkey right before it's ready to go in the oven.
- Make sure to get the turkey in the oven early so that it will be ready at the scheduled dinnertime.
- Get everyone involved. Assign someone in the family to greet guests, some to take coats, someone to pass around appetizers, someone to fill water glasses and get drinks, etc.
- Get containers ready for guests to take home leftovers.
- Enjoy your meal and enjoy your guests.