

6 Tips for an Organized Thanksgiving

The holiday time can be a joyous time, and at the same time, it can be stressful and chaotic. So here's some helpful hints to make Thanksgiving the time of remembrance, family and thanks.

1. **Have some else serve your Thanksgiving dinner.** A lot of supermarkets and restaurants offer fully cooked dinners for Thanksgiving. Place the order and simply pick everything up and place it on your table ready to serve. For a personal touch, make a special dish of your own. If you're extremely busy, considering have dinner at the restaurant and have dessert and coffee at home.
2. **Inventory check.** Check your supply of utensils, serving plates, chairs, tables, dishes, glasses, pots, and pans.
3. **Meal planning.** Use a piece of paper to plan your meal from the main dish to appetizers and desserts. Make a list of all ingredients needed. If you use index cards, put one item on each card with a list of ingredients needed for each main dish, dessert, beverages, etc.
4. **Cook meals ahead of time.** Freeze your meal, and then on Thanksgiving Day, just defrost, heat and serve. You'll be able to join in on the festivities without being stuck in the kitchen.
5. **Ease the stress.** Set the table with your good silverware and lay out your wardrobe for the family the day before.
6. **Make a list of the things you want to do.** It's the one day of the year that people take time to be thankful for all that life has to give--health, family, and friends. Some people choose to have a simple moment of silence, a special prayer before dinner, while others prefer to read a Thanksgiving story or poem. Be sure to reference your list as the day progresses, so you don't forget what you need to do.

