

DECEMBER

To Do This Month

Trim The Tree

We know there are some ornaments you wouldn't dare get rid of, even if they look hideous. For some, tacky holiday décor is just as much a part of the holidays as anything. But you don't have to keep it all. Throw away old candy canes and other perishable or food-based tree ornaments – keeping them in storage may attract pests. Decide what you really want to store for another year as you pack up the decorations - there's no need to hang on to stacks of decorative tins that you never intend to use.

'Tis Better To Give

There's no shortage of opportunities this month to donate to charity and help those less fortunate, no matter your financial situation. Shovel your neighbor's sidewalk, scrape ice off a coworker's windshield, or open the door for a stranger. You can also donate food to your local food pantry.

Holiday Hiding Spots

At the beginning of the month, make sure you clean out your closet and other gift-hiding spots so you're not rushing to do so when you get home from the store. Rather than cross the purchased item off your list, add a note beside it to remind yourself where it is. This is especially useful if you leave gifts at neighbors or relatives' houses to hold until later. Start a list of your hiding places in your day planner for reference. (Just don't leave your planner out where they'll see it.)

And To All A Good Night

With plenty of things to keep you up at night during the winter, it's easy to skimp on sleep. So with all the parties, TV specials, shopping, holiday goodies, and indigestion, don't forget to plan for a good night's rest. You'll enjoy the festivities more if you're well rested.

Bah! Humbug

Tax filing is still a few months away, but a little prep now will pay off. If nothing else, you should at least label a file folder and have it ready for the W-2s and other end-of-year tax documents you'll be getting in the coming weeks. If you put them there as soon as you get them, you won't be searching for them come April.

Write Your Own To-Dos

