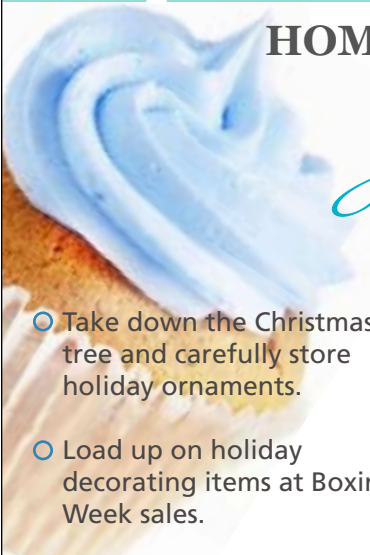


HOME & LIVING:

January Checklist



- Take down the Christmas tree and carefully store holiday ornaments.
- Load up on holiday decorating items at Boxing Week sales.
- Whip up a batch of decadent and delicious cupcakes and indulge yourself with a much-deserved sweet treat. Add a hot cup of tea and 15 min. of quiet time!
- Buy a bird feeder and hang it outside with plenty of seed each day.
- Deep-clean your kitchen, from oven and fridge to floor and backsplash. It may need it after all that entertaining!
- Paint a canvas. A hit of fresh colour will enliven your space, especially in winter. (Got kids? Let them make one for their room, too.)
- Change your mantel-scape. Move photos and knick-knacks elsewhere. Display just three or four photos in silver frames and add a pretty potted orchid.

Your notes...

Tip Decadent hot chocolate

Take the bite out of January with from-scratch hot chocolate. Coarsely chop two squares of semi-sweet baker's chocolate and put it into a saucepan with two cups of milk and one-third of a cup of sugar. Whisk over medium heat until chocolate melts and sugar dissolves, then add the remaining milk. Heat, but don't let it come to a boil. Serve the hot chocolate in mugs, garnished with a dollop of whipped cream. Sprinkle with chocolate shavings. Serves you and three guests.