

HOME & LIVING:

December *Checklist*

- Decorate outdoor areas for the holidays: add an evergreen garland to the porch, string Christmas lights around trees, install yard decorations, put a wreath on the front door.
- Complete your indoor holiday decorating.
- Prepare batches of cookie dough to freeze. Shortbread, chocolate chip and sugar-cookie dough all keep well for one month. Thaw and bake in batches as needed during the holidays.
- Dog owners: get your four-legged friend professionally groomed.
- Finish gift shopping. Save time – and the planet – by “wrapping” gifts in reusable shopping totes.
- Load up on de-icing pellets and store snow shovels for easy access. Check snow blower, oil fittings and send for any needed repairs as early as possible.
- Mail holiday cards as early in the month as possible.

Your notes...

Tip Christmas tree 101

Buy your tree early in the month so you get the best pickings. Look for a full, glossy-green tree that doesn't lose its needles when you run your hand along a branch. As soon as you get the tree home, cut a couple of inches off the trunk. Ready to decorate? Put the tree into a tree stand, adding water. No time to decorate yet? Cut the trunk anyway, then stand the tree in a bucket of water, until you're ready to move it to its rightful place.