

## Getting Organized for the Holidays

Holidays can be a stressful time of year. However, with the proper organizing strategies you can maintain a stress free holiday for years to come. Here are a few tips to getting organized for the Holidays.

-  Make a gift list for family, friends, coworkers or that special person in your life. If you shop online, start early so your gifts can arrive on time. Avoid the holiday rush by shopping during the week instead of weekends.
-  If you are mailing packages don't wait until the last minute to mail them, as they may not get to the destination in time.
-  Start addressing your holiday cards. Get pre-printed address labels to save time. If you have children, this would be a great activity to get them involved.
-  Start your seasonal chores (dusting, polishing, washing the guest sheets).
-  Freshen up the guest room, make sure your "guest supplies" are stocked. "Guest supplies" are extra blankets, toiletries, towels, alarm clock and let not forget some reading materials.
-  Plan your Holiday Decor. Put up the tree, hang lights, stockings.
-  Are you the host of the Holiday dinner?
  - Plan your menu
  - Make sure you have all your recipes
  - Take inventory of all the ingredients you need, and those you have to purchase
  - Plan the seating arrangement
  - Keep a list of what guests are bringing for dinner
  - This is also a good time to clean those holidays' dishes. Don't wait till the last moment.
  - Take a few days off to have some fun.
  - Take a deep breath you are almost there. Spot clean all rooms.
  - Check bathrooms and be sure you have extra toiletries and towels on hand.
  - Holiday theme napkins for the bathroom area nice touch instead of hand towels and they are a great way to cut down on the spread of germs.
-  Put fresh flowers around the house.
-  Relax. This Holiday season will be a breeze.

*Paris Love is a Professional Organizer serving Metro Atlanta and the Gulf Coast. Paris has written articles for BrownSkin Magazine, OnlineOrganizing, Home Base Quarterly and the Covington News. Currently, Paris is passing on her passion for organizing by helping others live an organized and clutter-free life™. For additional tips or information visit [www.organizewithlove.com](http://www.organizewithlove.com).*