

The 7-Day Holiday Reset Guide

Seven manageable resets to help you clear the holiday overflow, put away the season with intention, and start the new year with a little less chaos.

ONE DAY AT A TIME: This is not a seven-day whole-house overhaul. Spend 15-30 minutes on each day's focus, do what you can, and move on.

DAY 1 / GIFTS + TOYS

Today's focus: Make room for what came in.

- Gather new gifts and remove packaging, tags and boxes you no longer need.
- Choose permanent homes for new toys, games and belongings.
- Set aside broken toys or items with missing pieces.
- Identify toys or children's items that have been outgrown or are no longer used.
- Create one donation bag or box and move it out of the main living space.
- Keep kid systems simple enough that children can actually maintain them.

DAY 2 / KITCHEN RESET

Today's focus: Recover from holiday cooking, baking and entertaining.

- Clear holiday leftovers that are no longer being eaten.
- Return seasonal ingredients and serving pieces to their homes.
- Match food-storage containers with their lids.
- Remove expired pantry and refrigerator items.
- Reset counters by putting away appliances or serving pieces you do not use every day.
- Make a quick note of anything your kitchen system struggled with during the holidays.

DAY 3 / HOLIDAY DECOR

Today's focus: Pack this year away with next year in mind.

- As you take decor down, separate anything broken, damaged or no longer loved.
- Group decorations by room, zone or category - whichever matches how you decorate.
- Label every storage bin specifically instead of simply writing 'Christmas.'
- Create an OPEN FIRST bin for the things you typically need at the beginning of the season.
- Wrap fragile items and keep ornament hooks, timers and extension cords contained.
- Make a note of anything that needs to be replaced next year before closing the bins.

DAY 4 / CLOSETS + CLOTHING

Today's focus: Give the new things somewhere to live.

- Put away new clothing, shoes and accessories received as gifts.
- Pull out pieces that no longer fit, are worn out or are not being used.
- Return holiday outfits and accessories to their proper places.
- Reset hangers, shelves and floor space so everyday items are easy to reach.
- Start a donation bag for usable clothing you are ready to pass along.
- Do not reorganize the entire closet - focus on creating breathing room.

DAY 5 / PAPER + HOLIDAY EXTRAS

Today's focus: Stop the small stuff from becoming January clutter.

- Recycle gift receipts you no longer need and file the ones you do.
- Recycle holiday catalogs, packaging inserts and unnecessary paperwork.
- Put gift cards together in one visible, easy-to-remember place.
- Add important dates, appointments or commitments from holiday mail to your calendar.
- Store sentimental holiday cards intentionally or recycle the ones you do not plan to keep.
- Create one temporary action pile for paperwork that still needs attention.

DAY 6 / BATHROOMS + LINENS

Today's focus: Reset the things that worked overtime while guests were here.

- Wash and return guest towels, sheets and blankets to their homes.
- Check linen storage for worn-out or unnecessary extras.
- Return travel-size toiletries and guest supplies to one designated area.
- Remove empty bottles and expired products from bathroom storage.
- Restock everyday essentials so January starts with what you need.
- Keep only the quantity of linens that realistically fits your household and guest needs.

DAY 7 / DROP ZONES + SYSTEMS

Today's focus: Finish with the places where everyday chaos tends to collect.

- Reset the entryway, kitchen counter or other family drop zone.
- Return holiday travel bags, coolers and entertaining supplies to storage.
- Create or refresh homes for keys, mail, backpacks, shoes and everyday essentials.
- Notice what repeatedly landed in the wrong place during the holidays.
- Adjust one organizational system that clearly was not working.
- Choose ONE space you want to tackle next - not ten.

Before You Call It Done...

Ask yourself: **What felt hardest to manage this holiday season?** That frustration is useful information. It can show you exactly where your home needs a better system - one designed around the way your family actually lives.

Your New Year Calm Plan

You do not need a perfectly organized home on January 1. Use what you noticed during this reset to choose a few changes that will make everyday life easier.

The space that frustrated me most during the holidays:

What kept piling up - and where?

One system that worked really well:

One system that needs to change:

Three things I am ready to let go of:

1.

2.

3.

My first organization project for the new year:

Ready for a little more calm in the new year?

Chaos Managed can help you turn the spaces that keep frustrating you into practical, personalized systems that work for your home and your family.

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