



thanksgiving timeline

one month out:

- *Create a guest list. Ask guests about any food allergies. If necessary, ask them to bring a dish.*
- *Invite your guests. Be sure to tell them what time you're eating.*
- *Confirm you have all the necessary cookware and serving dishes.*
- *Purchase a frozen turkey or reserve a fresh turkey.*

two weeks out:

- *Confirm your menu.*
- *Print out all recipes. Read through all the recipes and make any necessary notes.*
- *Make a grocery shopping list. Take note of items already in your pantry, and items that still need to be purchased.*
- *If you're planning on any special touches such as table decor, gather those items.*
- *Find the perfect playlist for your party.*

one week out:

- *Check-in with guests to make sure they are still coming.*
- *Go grocery shopping, and don't forget your grocery list! I like to screenshot the recipe ingredients on my phone just in case I need to peek at them while I'm shopping.*



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- *Purchase some extra bags of ice for your drinks.*
- *Deep clean your house. Clean the things that haven't been cleaned in a while, but won't get dirty in the next week. Only leave last-minute tidying up for the day before. Make sure to hit your bathroom, living room, and any other areas your guests will be using.*
- *Begin cleaning out the refrigerator so there's enough room for Thanksgiving food. If you bought a frozen turkey, put it in the fridge to start thawing. Allow 24 hours of thawing time per 4 or 5 pounds of turkey, as the USDA advises. Place it on a tray to catch any liquid.*

tuesday:

- *Begin getting out serving platters and tableware. Label each serving platter or bowl with a sticky note to denote which dish will be served in it. Don't forget to find the proper serving utensils for each item on the menu.*
- *If possible, pre-set the table or buffet area.*
- *Final grocery trip for any last-minute items you forgot.*
- *Begin brining the turkey (can be done 1-3 days ahead of time).*



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- *Start making some of the dishes that can be prepped ahead of time (i.e. cranberry sauce, pies, desserts, salad dressings, etc.).*

wednesday:

- *Set up your drink station. Get out any pitchers and glasses for water & cocktails. If you have a beverage tub you can set that out for any soda, wine, and beer you want to keep cold.*
- *Chill your drinks.*
- *Last-minute cleaning & tidying. Make sure your counters & tables are cleaned off.*
- *Wash and empty the dishwasher one more time before you go to bed.*
- *Clean and trim your vegetables.*
- *Start on any homemade doughs so they have time to proof.*
- *Begin prepping elements of the dish (i.e. chopping up veggies, measuring out spices, items for appetizers, etc.)*
- *Consider making stuffing or casseroles that can easily be reheated.*
- *Write out a game plan schedule for tomorrow. What time do things need to go in the oven, start reheating, etc.*



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Thanksgiving (morning):

- *Prepare the turkey for roasting.*
- *Get your turkey into the oven.*
- *Work on the side dishes
(preparing/reheating as necessary).*
*Remember to use a crockpot to warm dishes
where possible.*
- *Prep any cocktails.*

Thanksgiving (hours before guests arrive):

- *Take out the trash.*
- *Run the dishwasher one last time.*
- *Take premade foods out of the refrigerator
and allow them to come to room
temperature before reheating.*
- *Begin heating up side dishes in the oven
and on the stove.*
- *Plate up your appetizers.*
- *Set your drink station up 30 minutes
before your guests arrive. Always make
sure you have a pitcher of water.*
- *Start some music.*



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Thanksgiving (30 minutes before you're ready to eat):

- *Carve the turkey. Make sure it has had time to rest.*
- *Make the gravy (if using turkey drippings).*
- *Finish re-heating any last-minute dishes.*
- *Clean up the kitchen as much as you can.*
- *Plate up all the dishes.*

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