



HOLIDAY *home* GUIDE

From cozy holiday recipes to smart home tips, local events, and seasonal décor ideas, this guide has everything you need to make the most of the holidays.



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*Must-See
Attractions*

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*Holiday Nibbles:
Pain D'espace*



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THE HOLIDAYS

May your walls know joy, may
every room hold laughter, and
every window open to great
possibility. ”

—MARY ANNE RADMACHER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Whether you're in full-on holiday prep mode or just looking for an excuse to try something festive (like the recipe on page 5), this guide has you covered.

As the holidays roll in and another year wraps up, we wanted to send you something a little extra special. Think of this as a cozy, fun-packed bundle of **everything you need to get into the holiday spirit**, stay connected with your home, and maybe even try something new.

Wishing you all the best this holiday season, and we're just a call away if you need anything—or if you want to share how that super delicious new recipe turned out!



THE NUMBERS ARE IN

Year-End Home Value Report

Drumroll...the Halifax Dartmouth area home values are looking pretty sweet.



We've crunched the numbers just for you. Turns out, all those cozy nights in, family gatherings, and weekend projects have been happening in a home that's worth a lot more than when you first bought it.

Average Metro Home Price last year:

\$535,000

Average Home Price Now:

\$466,500

That's what we like to call serious equity. You've not only made memories, you've made a smart investment—and it's paying off, big time.

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?



INCREASED EQUITY

Your home's growing value means more equity you can use for refinancing, investing, or a home project you've been dreaming of.



MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

With home values rising, it's a great time to explore if staying, selling, or refinancing fits your future plans. Even if you're not moving, it's smart to stay informed.



PLANNING AHEAD

Knowing your home's value helps you plan upgrades that boost its worth, like energy-efficient improvements or enhancing curb appeal for long-term gains.





HOLIDAY & PREP CHECKLIST

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

(interior)

- **Seal Doors and Windows**
Keep the cold out and the warmth in by checking for drafts and sealing any gaps around windows and doors.
- **Check Your Heating System**
Before winter really sets in, have your furnace or heating system serviced to ensure it's running efficiently.
- **Insulate Pipes**
Avoid frozen pipes by adding insulation to exposed pipes in colder areas of your home (basements, attics, garages).

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

(exterior)

- **Clean Gutters**
Clear out leaves and debris to prevent ice dams and water damage during winter storms.
- **Inspect Roof & Chimney**
Check for roof damage and clean your chimney to avoid hazards.
- **Trim Trees & Shrubs**
Prune branches near your home to avoid damage from heavy snow or ice.

CLEAN & PREP

Deep Clean High-Traffic Areas

Give a little extra attention to spaces like the kitchen and bathrooms before holiday guests arrive.

Declutter and Organize

Keep things festive but functional by clearing out clutter and organizing spaces for entertaining.

Get Your Fireplace Ready

If you have a wood-burning fireplace, make sure it's clean and safe for cozy fires all winter long.

GUEST PREP

Cozy Beds

Make your guests feel pampered with freshly changed linens and extra blankets to keep them warm.

Gather Essentials

Provide fresh towels, facecloths, and essential toiletries on the bed.

Extras

Bedside chargers for all device types, a bottle of water, and a light book or magazine for easy bedtime reading.

DECK THE HALLS (SAFELY)

Check Holiday Lights

Inspect all holiday lights for frayed wires or broken bulbs before you hang them.

Hang Decorations Securely

Avoid accidents by making sure all holiday decorations are safely secured, especially on staircases, roofs, or around the fireplace.

BONUS: BUDGET HACKS

DIY Wrapping Paper

Use old newspapers or brown paper bags to wrap gifts, then dress them up with festive ribbons, stamps, or drawings.

Potluck Holiday Parties

Hosting doesn't have to break the bank —ask friends and family to bring a dish to share. That way, everyone contributes, and you save on the food bill!

Seasonal Energy-Saving Tips

Winter's here, and while we love a cozy vibe, nobody loves skyrocketing energy bills. Don't worry—we've got five simple (and smart) ways to keep things toasty without toasting your wallet.



01 Sunlight = Free Heat

Nature's giving you some free warmth, so why not take it? Keep those curtains open during the day to soak up all that glorious sunshine. Then close them up when the sun sets to lock the cozy in. Easy, right?



02 Stop Sneaky Drafts

Your windows and doors might be letting the cold sneak in. Grab some weatherstripping or caulk to seal those pesky gaps. Trust us, you'll feel the difference—and so will your energy bill.

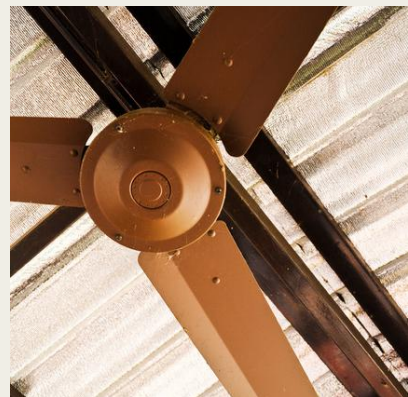
03 Thermostat Smarts

If you don't have a programmable thermostat, now's the time. Set it to dial down the heat when you're not home or catching some Z's, and boom—up to 10% saved on heating costs. Your future self will thank you.



04 Flip That Fan

Here's a fun one: set your ceiling fan to spin clockwise in the winter. It'll push warm air back down where it belongs, and you can stay cozy without cranking up the heat. Who knew fans worked year-round?



05 Lighten Up with LEDs

Still rocking old-school bulbs? It's time to upgrade. LEDs use way less energy (we're talking 75% less!) and last longer—so you can stay lit for the holidays without the electric bill guilt.





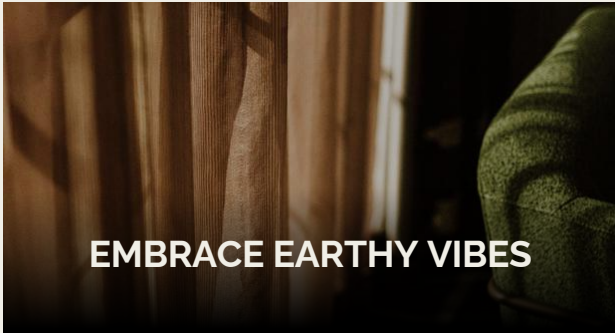
Quiet Luxury: The Holiday Decor Trend *of* 2024

"Quiet luxury," is everywhere right now and holiday decor is the next wave to be hit by this growing trend. Here's how to bring this trend into your holiday setup:




tone-on-tone decor

For a chic holiday look, try tone-on-tone décor by layering different shades of a single color. Whether you choose winter whites or festive reds, this creates a sophisticated, cohesive space that's festive without being overwhelming.



embrace earthy vibes

Brown is having its moment, and it's perfect for creating a warm, grounded holiday space. Think rich, chocolate-toned velvet throws, dark wood accents, and textured linens that bring depth to your décor.



vintage lamps

A mid-century floor lamp or pendant light—especially Italian or French styles from the '50s—can bring warmth and a timeless, festive feel to your holiday space, making it both stylish and inviting.



mix textures

Layer soft fabrics like wool, velvet, and linen with natural elements like wood and stone to create a cozy, inviting space that feels rich and full of character.



COZY HOLIDAY BITES *to* SAVOUR


DELICIOUSLY WARM BITES AND SWEET TREATS TO
BRING JOY AND COMFORT TO EVERY HOLIDAY MOMENT



CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE CAKE

- 2.3 OZ PRUNES, CHOPPED
 - 8.8 OZ RAISINS
 - 4.4 OZ CURRANTS
 - 1.75 OZ CANDIED ORANGE PEEL
 - 6.2 OZ UNSALTED BUTTER
 - 6.2 OZ DARK BROWN SUGAR
 - 6 FL OZ HONEY
 - 4.2 FL OZ COFFEE LIQUEUR
 - JUICE AND ZEST OF 2-3 ORANGES
 - 1 TSP MIXED SPICE
 - 4 TBSP COCOA
 - 3 LARGE EGGS, BEATEN
 - 5.3 OZ PLAIN FLOUR
 - 2.6 OZ GROUND ALMONDS
 - ½ TSP BAKING POWDER
 - ½ TSP BAKING SODA
-

Combine prunes, raisins, currants, and candied orange peel. / In a large saucepan, melt butter, sugar, honey, liqueur, orange juice, and zest over low heat. Stir in mixed spice and cocoa. / Add the dried fruit to the mixture and simmer for 10 minutes. Let cool. / Stir in eggs, flour, almonds, baking powder, and baking soda. / Pour into a greased tin and bake at 300°F (150°C) for 1.5-2 hours until a skewer comes out clean.



“When I was a kid, I’d wait all year for this cake. My mom refused to make it any other time, so Christmas was extra special—definitely not your average fruitcake!”



What's Happening Around Halifax

Whether you're looking for a cozy holiday market to find unique gifts or a lively event to share with friends and family, here's your guide to what's happening around town.

EVENTS *in the* CITY



NOVA SCOTIA POWER HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS

Downtown Halifax

Don't miss this iconic parade featuring festive floats, marching bands, and Santa

DEC 8/5PM



EVERGREEN FESTIVAL

Halifax Waterfront

Shop local artisans at the Evergreen Market, walk under twinkling light displays, and enjoy live entertainment by cozy firepits along the waterfront

NOV. 22 - DEC. 15 2024



HALIFAX CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Grand Parade

Celebrate the season with music, fireworks, and the City Hall light projection show

NOV 23/6PM



DELIGHTFUL DOWNTOWN

The [Downtown Halifax Business Commission](#) (DHBC), ipresents a series of vivid light shows and installations around Downtown Halifax, and includes the beautiful light projection shows on the former Halifax Memorial Library Building at Grafton Park.

NOV 1- JAN 12/DUSK TO 11 PM

HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

THINGS TO BUY

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- _____
- _____

THINGS TO CLEAN

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- _____
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- _____
- _____

THINGS TO PREP

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- _____

FOOD TO MAKE

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- _____
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- _____

TO-DO TODAY

TO DO

[illegible]

NOTES

TO-DO TOMORROW



THE HOLIDAYS

"We count down the days just to experience it nearly exactly as we always have. It is so comfortable, familiar, and perfectly nostalgic that, frankly, we have no desire to improve upon it at all." ”

– JOANNA GAINES



A cozy winter scene featuring a white ceramic cup of tea on a textured white knit coaster, an open book with warm-toned pages, and a string of warm white lights. The background is a soft-focus view of snow-covered trees.

THAT'S A WRAP!

Wishing you and
your family big
dreams, warm hearts,
and maybe a little
extra sparkle in the
new year!

Whether you're decking the halls, setting New Year's goals, or simply enjoying the space you're in, we hope this guide brought a little extra joy and inspiration to your holiday season! If you try out any of the tips or recipes, let us know—we love hearing what makes your holidays brighter.

Tag us on Instagram @Assist2SellNS, and share your festive finds! Here's to new beginnings, warm homes, and all the beauty this season (and 2025!) holds.



Need Our Help?

We are always a text, phone call or email away!

902.446.3113 | HRMOFFICE@ASSST2SELL.COM



Assist **2** Sell