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Getting your home ready for Christmas is an exciting prospect, especially since it allows you to flex those creative muscles and try and come up with something spectacular to beat last year's efforts. One of the best things about Christmas decorating is that nothing is ever too much: fairy lights, tinsel, stars and glitter can all be scattered around liberally, with every room instantly taking on a festive glow. So, as the nights get darker and Christmas adverts begin to take over the television, here are some top tips to give your house that festive edge this season:

Retro decorations

Currently, one of the most fashionable ways to decorate your home for Christmas is to go with old-fashioned decorations and plenty of retro touches. This look brings to mind those classic festive films of old like *White Christmas* and *It's A Wonderful Life*; the effect is extremely striking and evokes a great sense of nostalgia to take you back to the Christmases of your childhood.

To achieve this look, don't be afraid to mix the usual fairy lights with some simpler touches. Holly wreaths, candles and even mistletoe bring a fabulously Old Hollywood feel to proceedings, and the addition of more modern touches such as tinsel adds a contemporary twist.

Colour schemes

In terms of colour schemes, red, gold and green are the most traditional. However, to really make your mark this Christmas, why not consider something a little different? Blue and silver still look festive due to their cold tones, and the unique look will soon have people talking. Keep things sparkly to ensure that it still looks Christmassy, but make sure to experiment with richer jewel colours to see what works in your home: you may be surprised at the outcome.

Sweets

Christmas is every child's favourite time of year, and if you're expecting lots of younger guests this December or have children of your own, indulge your inner 'big kid' and really cater for them. Chocolates and candy canes pinned to the tree and plenty of small toys to play with will keep them occupied while the grown-ups catch up, and a simple 'Santa Stop Here!' sign in the window is a fun way to keep them excited right up until the day.

Budgeting

If you're worried about your budget this Christmas, don't despair: Christmas decorating can still be done inexpensively. Homemade decorations are a lovely way to bond with family, and it needn't be difficult: old branches spray-painted silver, last year's Christmas cards mounted on card, and ribbons for present-wrapping all make for original and creative Christmas touches.

When it comes to decorations, everyone has their favourite items that have been in the family for years. Maybe a bauble you clumsily decorated for mum in Year 5, or perhaps a Christmas card from a loved one that gets put up every year. However, if your tinsel and tree didn't quite survive this year's hibernation in the loft, or perhaps if you just fancy a change, why not hit the shops and buy a selection of shiny new decorations?

Scotts of Stow is a family-owned business that specialise in high-quality interior design and

homeware products. With Christmas approaching, their line of old-fashioned garlands, gold stars and table settings can be just the thing to give your home that elegant edge this winter, especially if youâ€™re looking to impress guests at your Christmas party. And with an easy ordering and delivery service, you donâ€™t even need to leave the house to get all your decorations delivered to your door. This cuts down on stressful moments in busy shopping centres, and means that the only thing you need to worry about is getting that turkey cooked on time. Merry Christmas!

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Decorating a home for Christmas in order to impress your guests is not an easy task. To avoid stressful moments at the stores, try online shopping and have all your goods delivered to your door. Helpful sites like a [Scotts of Stow](#) are among the many that offer great ideas for Christmas.

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