Christmas countdown

Tick each job off as you go. Start six weeks out and Christmas Eve is calm.

6 weeks out (mid November)

- [ ] Set a budget for presents and food
- [ ] Write the gift list
- [ ] Check posting dates for overseas parcels
- [ ] Book what sells out: Santa photos, the tree, lunches
- [ ] Make fruit mince and the Christmas cake

4 weeks out

- [ ] Buy or make half the presents
- [ ] Order the ham
- [ ] Put up the tree and lights
- [ ] Post overseas cards
- [ ] Decide who is hosting and who is travelling

2 weeks out

- [ ] Finish the present shopping
- [ ] Bake shortbread and gingerbread
- [ ] Start wrapping, a few each evening
- [ ] Write the food plan: one dish per guest
- [ ] Book Santa's phone call at santacall.co.nz

1 week out

- [ ] Big supermarket shop for things that keep
- [ ] Clear the fridge
- [ ] Charge the camera, find batteries for toys
- [ ] Wash the good tablecloth
- [ ] Check the car for the road trip

2 days out

- [ ] Buy fresh fruit, salad, cream and bread
- [ ] Bake the mince pies
- [ ] Wrap the last presents

Gift list

Write every name first, then a budget beside each one, before any ideas. Keep this page away from small readers.

Who	Gift idea	Budget $	Bought	Wrapped
	Total			

Where I hid them: _____

Christmas Day food plan

One line per dish. Ask each guest to bring one thing and write their name beside it.

Course	Dish	Who is bringing it	Done
Nibbles			
Nibbles			
Main			
Main			
Main			
Salad			
Salad			
Potatoes			
Bread			
Dessert			
Dessert			
Drinks			
Drinks			
For the children			

The day before

- [ ] Glaze the ham
- [ ] Make the pavlova, leave it in the oven
- [ ] Wash salad greens
- [ ] Chill the drinks, fill the ice trays

Christmas morning

- [ ] New potatoes on
- [ ] Barbecue lit
- [ ] Whip the cream, top the pavlova
- [ ] Give everyone one job

Christmas Eve checklist

The last list of the year. Work down it, then sit down.

- [ ] Presents wrapped and labelled
- [ ] Batteries in the toys that need them
- [ ] Stockings out
- [ ] Ham glazed, pavlova in the oven
- [ ] Camera and phones charged
- [ ] Table set, or at least found
- [ ] Milk and biscuits for Santa
- [ ] A carrot for the reindeer
- [ ] “Santa, please stop here” sign in the window
- [ ] Santa’s phone call booked for bedtime
- [ ] Christmas pyjamas on
- [ ] One story, then lights out
- [ ] Children asleep
- [ ] Presents under the tree
- [ ] Eat Santa’s biscuits. Leave crumbs.
- [ ] Sit down. You did it. Merry Christmas.

Want Santa to ring tonight? He rings your phone, asks for your child by name and asks what they want for Christmas. Book in two minutes at **www.santacall.co.nz**