



Christmas bookings

How to prepare your holiday ho-ho-home

Any holiday is a special occasion, but when it comes to Christmas breaks your guests will be filled with even more anticipation than usual. The countdown is on and chances are they've been looking forward to this for months – and even if they leave it late to book, think how long they may have been saving or planning for their Christmas getaway. We're often asked by property owners how to get their property ready for Christmas, so we've prepared a handy guide to help you prepare your property for the festive season.

Christmas tree

What says “Christmas” more than the iconic tree? Space permitting, this is the perfect way to add the festive feel to your property. A real Christmas tree is a lovely touch and may be more than guests are used to at home. A tree with non-drop needles is ideal to minimise the amount of clean-up required (keep an eye out for Nordman and Fraser firs) but a good-quality artificial tree is a great alternative – not to mention you’ll be able to use it year after year. Add some decorations in keeping with your property’s aesthetic and you’ve got the perfect festive focal point for your holiday home.

Welcome pack

If you already provide a welcome pack, you’ll know how much your visitors love them. It gets the holiday off to the perfect start and makes a great first impression on guests. At Christmas time, why not add a seasonal touch with a packet of mince pies? Family favourites such as Nestlé Matchmakers (very popular here at Sykes HQ!) have also been on sale at Lidl for only 99p, so you can add a Christmas welcome for next to nothing. Non-perishables such as Christmas crackers are also a great touch and can be tucked away for next year if they go unused. If children are coming, wrapping a small stocking-filler gift will delight your guests – and again, you don’t need to spend big to make a big impression. With 12% of positive reviews mentioning a welcome pack and 15% of negative reviews mentioning the lack of a welcome pack, it’s clear that these make a big impression!

Engage the senses

You may already be using air fresheners or scented candles in your property. Help it feel just like Christmas by using some seasonal scents. Think apple & cinnamon, pumpkin spices, and classic pine.

The little touches

Sometimes just the smallest addition can tie a whole theme together. Think about adding in some small bits and pieces throughout the property: a few stockings over the fireplace, a Santa Claus or two and maybe even some mistletoe over a doorway are all great ways to add the festive feeling to your holiday home.

A warm welcome

It’s not just about decorations and festive extras. Make your guests comfortable from the moment they set foot in the door. Leave a light on (at this time of year chances are they will arrive in the dark) and make sure the property is warm and inviting. Your boiler should be fully serviced to avoid any nasty surprises – nobody wants a cold shower, especially on Christmas morning!

Get creative

Every property is unique, so consider what will work best for the space you have – after all, it’s your own style which will make it special for your guests. Whether you choose to go all-out with lights, decorations and a big central feature or simply add some comfortable blankets, lay the fire and make the property extra cosy for Christmas, a little thought and some extra touches can delight your guests – and hopefully encourage them to revisit their festive home-from-home again and again in years to come. Think about the types of guests your property is likely to attract and what will make it feel like Christmas, and you can’t go far wrong.

When should I add these festive touches to my property?

We’d recommend making these additions for bookings from December 15th/16th onwards.

Do I have to add Christmas decorations to my property?

Enquiries about Christmas decorations are the most common enquiry we have regarding festive bookings. You aren’t obliged to add Christmas decorations to your property, but even just a few inexpensive and easy touches can help ensure a memorable holiday for your guests.