

A fuss-free, festive table setting

First, decide on the theme, whether it is a colour, or even something more abstract, such as inspiration from a book or a film. Then, start shopping for or looking for items that would fit that theme and make sure they are consistent.

Take photos of the table setting while you are setting it up to check that it looks good from a distance. Since everything is made for Instagram these days, this would help ensure that the overall look is good enough to post online.

- 1 Take old Christmas ornaments and re-fashion them into something else. For example, remove the string from ornaments which resemble gold crowns and use them as napkin holders.
- 2 Everyday items can also be re-purposed. Here, a gold acorn bottle opener doubles as a fun decorative item on the table.



- 3 Instead of using just one paper napkin for each person's place setting, use two of different sizes at the same time – one large plain one and a smaller printed one. It instantly looks classier.
- 4 Lighting helps to create a cosier vibe as well as make the food look more appetising, so place a few candles on the table. Go with battery-operated candles if there are safety concerns.
- 5 Do not throw away your leftover gift wrap ribbon. Lay a few small pieces on the centre of the table to add a bit of sparkle.
- 6 Even though most of the guests will focus only on the table, things will look even better if the rest of the room also matches the theme. So if you are going with a dark green and gold table setting, then try to avoid rainbow-coloured gift wrap for your presents.