



Canada's **Building** Centre®

Project Of The Month

**GET READY FOR
CHRISTMAS**



PROJECT OF THE MONTH: GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS



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Time to get ready!

It's that time of year again when we start thinking about getting the house ready for Christmas. There are small DIY jobs on the honey-do-list that need tackling, perhaps a couple larger projects that can be completed and then the actual job of decorating for Christmas. It might seem like a lot of work prior to the holidays but completing a few DIY jobs will be rewarding long past Christmas. When you are ready to pull out the boxes of Christmas decorations, make sure you have the correct tools on hand that will make the process easier and faster. It's frustrating to have to stop your project for a run to the store.

Here's what you'll need to start your Christmas prep:

Exterior:

- Extension ladder
- Outdoor extension cords
- Outdoor timer
- Work gloves
- Measuring tape
- Light clips
- Zip ties
- Duct tape

Interior:

- Stepladder
- Indoor extension cords
- Indoor timer
- Batteries
- 3M Command Hooks
- Measuring tape
- Scissors
- Adhesive



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Five DIY projects to do before Christmas



Replace plumbing fixtures

Available in many styles and finishes, new kitchen or bathroom plumbing fixtures have an immediate visual impact. With current technology, you can improve water flow and conserve water at the same time.



Invest in new door entry set

Improve your home's curb appeal and security with this easy DIY project. Choose replacement hardware that lines up with your existing door's drilled out holes. Pick a finish and style that suits the architecture of your home.



Replace cabinet hardware

This small change has big impact and is one of the easiest DIY projects, often requiring only a screwdriver to install. To simplify, choose handles or knobs with the same hole pattern as your current hardware.



Install a dimmer light

Having the option to lower the brightness of a light can give a room softer ambient lighting and can also save on the life of the light bulbs while using less electricity. Some dimmers can be hooked up to your smart home's functions.



Upgrade your toilet seat

Consider installing a slow-closing toilet seat with special hinges that softly close on their own. Gone is the annoying sound of a toilet seat slamming shut! Available in round or elongated to suit the style of your toilet.

Handy holiday helper

One of the best products to come along for Christmas decorating are Command hooks by 3M. You can now hang whatever you want wherever you want without having to worry about damaging surfaces with nails or tacks. Hooks are available in assorted sizes and weight capacities for indoors and outdoors and can be easily removed after the holidays.



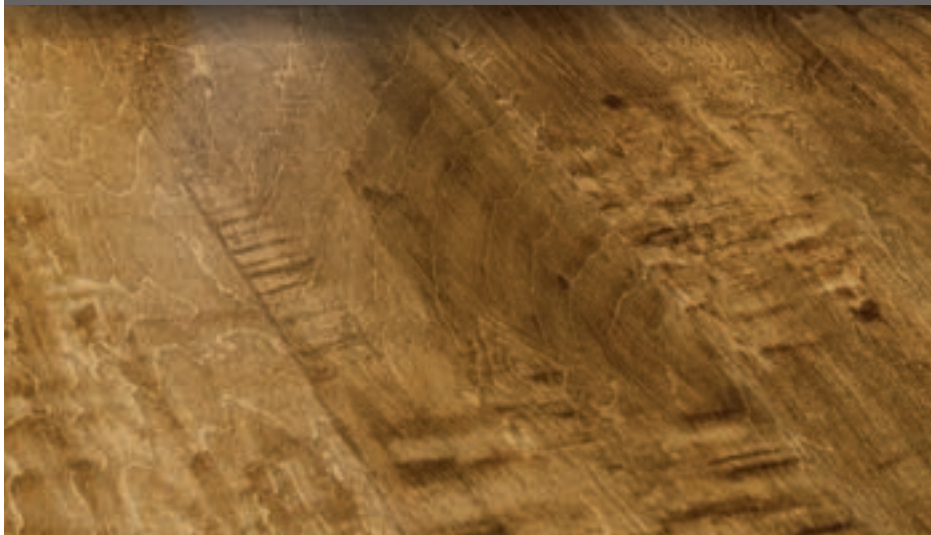
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Install new flooring

To get your house ready for the holidays, treat yourself to an early Christmas present and test your DIY skills by installing new flooring. Updating your flooring can fully transform the look and feel of a room while adding value to your home. The good news is that it doesn't have to cost a fortune and there are many easy-to-install options available. Depending on the room, consider the level of moisture (in basements and bathrooms), durability, maintenance and DIY-friendly options. Wood or wood-looking flooring is a sophisticated choice that suits any style of decor. If solid hardwood is outside of your budget, laminate, vinyl planking and engineered hardwood are the next best thing. Luxury Vinyl Planks in particular mimic the look and texture of hardwood and it is sometimes difficult to tell the difference between the two. Take note of the installation instructions, which will state if the flooring material needs to acclimatize prior to installation. When measuring how much flooring you require, add on 10% to account for any mistakes. Talk to our TIMBER MART Flooring Experts about measurements and estimates, and to stock up on all of the right tools for the job in time for Christmas.



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Shiplap

Add instant style to a blank wall with this popular wall treatment. Shiplap historically was the horizontal planking used to build boats then it transitioned to a building material for homes. Today it is used as a decorative element for it's aesthetic appeal. A rough-sawn surface will have more of a rustic look than the contemporary looking smooth surface. It can be hung horizontally or vertically.



Wall treatments to inspire



Stone veneer

Most people are familiar with using natural stone on the outside of homes but it can also be used inside for the same high end look. Because it is a veneer, it is lightweight and can attach to most surfaces including drywall. Stone veneer is an ideal way to turn an ordinary fireplace into a dramatic focal point or add interest to a plain wall. The possibilities are endless. Stone can add a sophisticated style element to your space and transform it into something really special.



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Christmas colour

Unify your Christmas decor with a festive colour palette. Choose your colours based on things already in your home like furniture and the colour of your walls. If your home is mostly neutrals you can choose almost any colour and not just the traditional red and green we are all familiar with. Colour combinations can be paired with metallics for an added style element. Click the link below for advice on how to create an exciting Christmas colour palette from the colour experts at Sico.



[Click here for wonderful Christmas colour palette options from Sico](#)

SICO



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DIY decorations

Every DIYer has a stash of scrap wood that grows with every project. Most of these bits and pieces are too small for a project but are not quite deemed useless and therefore not thrown out. A great way to use them up is to turn them into something decorative for Christmas. Simple wooden decorations are currently a popular trend and only require a bit of imagination to create. Get the kids involved with their first woodworking project and make tree ornaments they'll remember for years. It's an easy and inexpensive way for them to express their creativity while learning new skills.

Finish wood decorations with paint or leave as natural wood. Trendy chalk paint shown here with roughed up edges gives a modern farmhouse look.



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Snow essentials

Winter is just around the corner, so make sure you're prepared for the first heavy snowfall. All Canadian households should be equipped with a couple of snow shovels, including a child-friendly version for the kids, to clear snow from the front porch, driveway and sidewalk. An ice chopper will be highly effective at removing any hard-packed snow or ice. For larger driveways, a snowblower will have the job done in half the time. Make sure you stock up on salt or rock-based ice melter to prevent snow and ice build-up in high traffic areas. Even if your car is parked undercover, have an ice scraper and snow brush on hand in case you get caught off guard by a snowstorm when you're not home. Prevent ice build-up, slips and falls on your front steps by installing Secure Step rubber stair tread. Simply place the product directly onto concrete or wooden surfaces for peace of mind. Most roofs are built to support heavy loads of snow, however, a roof rake or shovel is a good investment. Head to TIMBER MART for all of your snow essentials.





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Feeling a bit chilly?

A space heater might be the answer

When the temperature drops and you find yourself shivering in certain rooms of your home, consider purchasing an electric space heater. They are designed to heat a single space and are size rated for the room you want to heat. Typically, the higher the wattage, the more heat it can produce. There are various types of electric space heaters and each uses its own technology to create and spread heat. Each type is an effective indoor heater that will keep the chills at bay. For safety, look for units that are thermostat controlled and have tip-over and overheat automatic shut off. It's important to read all safety instructions included with each unit.



Ceramic Uses electricity to heat internal ceramic plates until they start radiating heat. For units with a fan, they have the ability to heat up instantly and you will feel the heat in very little time. Some models have the ability to oscillate.



Fan Operates similarly to ceramic heaters except that the heated element is a metal coil and not ceramic plates. The fan blows air over the metal coil which pushes heat into the room. Fan heaters usually have the option to oscillate and are often inexpensive.



Infrared Emits electromagnetic waves to heat objects and people nearby. Uses the same principal of how our sun heats the earth. These are the best heaters for spot heating. If you are nearby, you'll feel instant warmth. Available with or without a fan.



Oil filled These are often referred to as radiator heaters. Inside the body, diathermic oil is heated up and circulated through the columns or fins. They do not come with a fan, the heat radiates off of the unit through the process of convection. Heat is long-lasting and the unit doesn't have to continuously run.



SUPER GLUE:

The perfect stocking stuffer

Looking for some inexpensive stocking stuffer ideas? Have a friend or family member who loves to build and fix things? Super glue is an ultra-practical idea that will fit nicely into a Christmas stocking for the DIYer in your life. But first, what is super glue, and how do you know what super glue item is right? Read on for some tips and pointers:

- Super glue (or, by its technical name, cyanoacrylate adhesive) is a type of fast-bonding, high-strength, instant adhesive engineered to bond almost any material. Super glues are known for their resistance to temperature and moisture and are used with stone, metal, wood, most plastics, leather, ceramics, paper, and most other common materials.
- Quality super glues come in a variety of application designs. Some use a patented side-squeeze design for a more precise utilization, even in tough-to-reach areas. Liquid-based super glue products feature a narrow nozzle for controlled and drip-free application and an easy-to-open cap with a metal pin for clog-free usage. Some super glue bottles can dry out quickly once opened, but LePage applicators come with airtight caps to keep bottles fresh.
- Super glues typically come in liquid or gel forms. Liquids are best used for cracks or fractures and generally dry faster than gels. Some gels, like LePage Super Glue Ultra Gel Control, create a more flexible bond than liquids. Their gel consistency means no dripping, offering a more controlled application for projects requiring greater precision or vertical application.

No matter how careful you are, accidents can happen, and for those common cracks and breakages that happen around the house, Super Glue is the solution – and the perfect stocking stuffer!



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