

The Budget Christmas Table Planner

Pick a color story, map the layers and set the table in the right order

1. Pick Your Color Story

A budget table looks pricey when everything shares two or three colors. Circle one palette and shop only for that.

Look	Colors	Pairs well with
Classic red and green	Red, forest green, cream	Plaid runner, gold flatware
Neutral and gold	Ivory, champagne, gold	Linen napkins, taper candles
Winter white	White, silver, pale blue	Glass chargers, votives
Rustic woodland	Burlap, pine, natural wood	Wood slices, greenery

2. Table Layers Map

Layer	What goes on	Check
Tablecloth	Wrinkle-free cloth, press it the day before	
Runner	Centered, ends hanging evenly	
Placemat	One per seat, edge 1 inch from the table	
Charger	Sits under the plate	
Plate	Dinner plate in the middle of the charger	
Napkin and ring	On the plate or to the left of the fork	
Candles	Tapers or votives down the center	
Centerpiece	Low enough to talk over	

3. Shopping and Budget

Item	Budget	Notes	Done?
Tablecloth and runner			
Placemats and chargers			
Napkins and rings			

Candles and holders			
Centerpiece and place cards			
Total			

- Buy the tablecloth and runner first, they set the whole look.
- Keep spare napkins and candles in a labelled bag.

4. Setting Order Checklist

- Measure the table and iron the cloth.
- Lay the cloth, then the runner.
- Place the placemats and chargers.
- Set the plates, then the napkins and rings.
- Add the candles and centerpiece last.
- Put a place card at every seat.

5. Hosting Night Checklist

- Light the candles ten minutes before guests arrive.
- Dim the room lights.
- Put on a holiday playlist.
- Pour something warm.
- Take a photo of the table before anyone sits.