

The Christmas Door Contest Planner

Measure, pick a theme and build your door in the right order

1. Measure Your Door and Check the Rules

Write each number down before you shop, so nothing arrives too big or breaks a contest rule.

What to check	Your answer	Why it matters
Door width and height		Sets cover, paper and bow size
Door material (wood, steel, glass)		Decides hooks, magnets or tape
Can you use tape, nails or magnets?		Picks the hanging method
Outlet near the door?		Plug-in or battery lights
Contest rules and judging time		Day or night lighting
Budget limit per door		Sets your shopping list

2. Choose One Theme

Pick one theme and stick to it. Circle your choice, then shop only for it.

Theme	Base	Add for the wow
Giant gift box	Wrapping paper	Big bow and name tag
Winter scene	Fabric door cover	Garland and icicle lights
Cute and cozy	Kraft paper	Gnome sign and banners
Funny door	Plain door	Elf legs and a joke sign
Classroom build	Kraft paper	Felt tree the kids place

3. Where Things Go (Door Map)

Spot	Ideas	Check
Whole door	Cover, wrapping paper or kraft paper	
Door frame	Garland, icicle lights	
Both sides	Banners	
Center or top	Giant bow, wreath, gnome sign	

Hanging method	Over-door hanger or magnetic hook	
Bottom of door	Props, gift boxes, elf legs	

4. Set a Budget and Divide the Work

Item	Budget	Who builds it	Done?
Base (cover or paper)			
Frame (garland or lights)			
Bow, banner or sign			
Hanging hardware			
Funny or cute extra			
Total			

- Spend first on the base and one big focal piece.
- Keep a little buffer for hooks, tape and batteries.

5. Build Order

- Base first: cover or paper the whole door.
- Frame second: garland and lights.
- Focal third: bow, banners or gnome sign.
- Extras fourth: props and name tags.
- Step back and look from the end of the hallway.

6. Safety and Contest Checklist

- Keep lights and cords away from the door swing.
- Use battery lights where outlets are far.
- Keep the door clear of fire exit signs and handles.
- Test magnets on the door before hanging.
- Take a photo before judging in case something falls.
- Take everything down gently so the door paint stays clean.