

The Christmas Mantel Planner

Measure, Budget and Layer Your Mantel Before You Shop

1. Measure Your Mantel First

Write each number down before you shop, so nothing arrives too long or too tall.

What to measure	Your number	Why it matters
Mantel length		Sets garland length and how many pieces
Mantel depth		Shallow shelves need narrow trees and flat pieces
Wall height above the mantel		Decides wreath or mirror size
Nearest outlet		Battery or plug-in lights
Stocking hook spots		Keep them clear of candles and lights
Mirror or art frame width		Trees should not touch the frame

2. Set a Budget and Pick Your Priorities

Item	Budget	Priority (1 to 3)	Bought?
Garland			
Wreath or wall piece			
Trees or tall pieces			
Lights and batteries			
Small extras (stems, ornaments)			
Stocking holders			
Total			

- Spend first on the garland and the tall pieces, then on lights, then on small extras.
- Keep a small buffer for batteries, floral wire and command hooks.

3. Layer Order: Base, Height, Sparkle

- Base: lay the garland first and let it dip in the center.

- Height: add one tall piece at each end or a pair of trees.
- Wall: hang a wreath or mirror above, centered over the mantel.
- Sparkle: tuck in lights, candles and small ornaments last.
- Step back and look from the couch to see what feels flat.

4. Safety and Setup Checklist

- Keep real candles and flame-style pieces away from garland and stockings.
- Use battery lights with a timer, and check the battery box is tucked out of sight.
- Plan the cord path first if a piece plugs in.
- Use renter-friendly hooks, and check your lease before you drill for a shelf.
- Keep small ornaments and loose stems away from pets and small kids.