

The Christmas Tree Planner 2026

Pick one look, set a budget and decorate in the right order

1. Measure Your Tree and Space First

Write each number down before you shop, so nothing arrives too short, too big or too bright.

What to measure	Your number	Why it matters
Tree height		Decides ribbon length, topper size and light count
Tree width at the base		Sets how many ornaments and how much garland you need
Stand or base width		Check before you buy a collar or skirt
Nearest outlet		Plug-in or battery lights, and cord path
Wall or window behind the tree		Helps you pick colors that stand out
Kids or pets at floor level		Plastic ornaments low, glass up high

2. Choose One Look

Pick one main color story and one texture. Circle your choice, then shop only for it.

Look	Main colors	Add for texture
Burgundy and gold	Wine red, antique gold	Velvet bows and wired ribbon
Snowy forest	White, silver, green	Flocked picks and tinsel
Natural and cozy	Cream, brown, orange	Dried orange slices, wood beads
Soft and romantic	Pink, champagne, pearl	Pearl garland and glitter stems
Warm brown	Chocolate, bronze, copper	Brown velvet bows, wood bead garland
Dark and moody	Bronze, black, gold	Velvet balls and warm lights
Nutcracker blue	Royal blue, silver, white	Mercury glass and a gold star

3. Rough Counts by Tree Height

These are starting points only. Adjust for how full you like a tree to look.

Tree height	Ornaments	Ribbon	Lights
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4 ft	30 to 40	10 yards	200 to 300
6 ft	50 to 70	10 to 20 yards	400 to 600
7.5 ft	70 to 100	20 yards	600 to 800
9 ft	100 or more	20 yards or more	800 or more

4. Set a Budget and Pick Your Priorities

Item	Budget	Priority (1 to 3)	Bought?
Lights			
Ribbon or garland			
Main ornaments			
Filler (picks, stems, bows)			
Topper			
Tree collar or skirt			
Total			

- Spend first on lights and your main ornaments, then on ribbon, then on the topper.
- Keep a small buffer for ornament hooks, floral wire and extra clips.

5. Decorating Order

- Lights first: wrap from the trunk out along each branch, and test them before you start.
- Ribbon or garland second: drop it in loose waves and tuck the ends behind branches.
- Big ornaments third: hang them deep inside the branches for depth.
- Filler fourth: bows, picks, stems and small ornaments fill the gaps.
- Topper fifth: trim the top branch so it sits straight.
- Collar last: hide the stand and tidy the base.
- Step back and look from across the room, then move anything that feels crowded.

6. Safety and Setup Checklist

- Keep glass ornaments higher up if kids or pets are around.
- Check the lights for damage before you plug them in.
- Do not run too many connected strings from one outlet; follow the listing's limit.
- Turn the lights off when you leave the house or go to bed.

- Store ornaments in their boxes and label them for next year.