

The Front Porch Christmas Planner

Plan your door, steps, railing and corners in the right order

1. Measure Your Porch or Stoop First

Write each number down before you shop, so nothing arrives too wide, too tall or too heavy for your entry.

What to measure	Your number	Why it matters
Front door width and height		Sets wreath, swag or door cover size
Porch or stoop depth		Decides if a tree or nutcracker fits without blocking the door
Railing length		Garland comes in 9 ft lengths, so you may need two
Number of steps		Lanterns and a mat need a flat, dry spot
Covered or open to rain and snow		Choose outdoor-rated pieces for open spots
Nearest outlet or none		Pick battery items if you have no outlet

2. Choose One Look

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

Look	Main colors	Add for texture
Classic red and green	Red, evergreen, gold	Big bows and a Norfolk pine wreath
Farmhouse plaid	Red, black, cream	Buffalo plaid ribbon and a wood sign
Snowy and soft	White, silver, green	Flocked greenery and cream pillows
Rustic woodland	Natural wood, burlap, berry	Sled, ski sign and cedar swag
Modern simple	Green and black	One wreath, one lantern pair, one mat

3. Where Things Go (Spot Map)

Spot	Ideas	Check
Front door	Wreath, swag, door hanger sign, wreath hanger	
Steps	Lanterns, doormat, one sign	

Railing	Garland, wired ribbon bows, big outdoor bow	
Corners	Mini trees, nutcracker, sled or ski	
Seat or bench	Water-resistant pillow covers, throw (bring indoors)	
Overhead	Large hanging ornaments from the porch ceiling	

4. Set a Budget and Pick Your Priorities

Item	Budget	Priority (1 to 3)	Bought?
Wreath or swag			
Door mat			
Railing garland and bows			
Lanterns			
Corner piece (tree, nutcracker, sled)			
Seat pillows and throw			
Total			

- Spend first on the front door, since that is what people see first.
- Keep a little buffer for zip ties, floral wire and command hooks.

5. Decorating Order

- Door first: hang the wreath or swag and make sure it sits straight.
- Railing second: wire the garland on, then add bows and ribbon every foot or so.
- Steps third: place the mat flat, then the lanterns on the sides.
- Corners fourth: set trees or figures where the door still opens fully.
- Seat last: add pillows and a throw, and plan to bring them in when it rains.
- Step back at the curb and look at it from the street, then move anything that feels crowded.

6. Weather and Safety Checklist

- Check each listing for outdoor-rated or indoor-only before you hang it in the open.
- Anchor tall pieces so wind cannot tip them across a step.
- Keep walkways and the door swing clear.
- Use battery items on timers so nothing runs all night.
- Bring fabric items inside when rain or snow is forecast.

- Store everything dry and labelled for next year.