

The Outdoor Holiday Planter Planner

Measure, Budget and Fill Your Porch Pots Before You Shop

1. Measure Your Pots and Porch First

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

What to measure	Your number	Why it matters
Pot opening (inside diameter)		Urn fillers and tree pots must fit
Pot depth		Sets how deep a spike or tree base can go
Porch width beside the door		Decides one pot or a pair
Door and rail height		Tree and bow scale
Nearest outlet or covered spot		Battery or plug-in lights
Wind exposure (open, partly covered)		Tells you how much weight you need

2. Set a Budget and Pick Your Priorities

Item	Budget	Priority (1 to 3)	Bought?
Pot or urn			
Tree or urn filler			
Lights and batteries			
Greenery stems and berries			
Bow or ribbon			
Weights or stakes			
Total			

- Spend first on the pot and the filler, then on lights, then on small extras.
- Keep a small buffer for batteries, zip ties and floral wire.

3. Fill Order: Thriller, Filler, Spiller

- Thriller: one tall piece in the center, like a cedar tree, birch pole or lit branch.
- Filler: short greenery around it, like cedar or pine stems.

- Spiller: berries, a bow or a trailing stem near the front edge.
- Last, tuck in lights and pinecones, and step back to look from the street.

4. Wind, Weather and Freeze Checklist

- Weigh the pot base with sand bags, bricks or stones if it tips in a breeze.
- Check each listing for UV-resistant or weather-resistant wording before you leave it outside.
- Keep natural items like birch and pinecones under a covered porch.
- Use battery lights with a timer and swap batteries before a long cold snap.
- Drill or check drainage holes so rain does not freeze solid in the pot.
- Take everything down on a dry day and store it flat.