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Holiday Traditions to Bring into Your Home

by homewarranty.com

Many of us have holiday traditions our families have passed down for generations that we still enjoy today. Why not add more to the mix and make new memories with these holiday traditions?

Decorate your home with family

This season, no matter which holiday your family celebrates, there are plenty of fresh decor ideas. Find ideas at HGTV.com!

Make DIY ornaments

Skip the store and get crafty this holiday season with some homemade ornaments. Turn on your favorite holiday music and craft decorative ornaments for your tree, family, and friends. Check out CountryLiving.com for great DIY ideas.

Take a family photo

Taking holiday photos is a wonderful holiday tradition and gives you a stack of treasured keepsakes to look back through the years. There's no better way to document your kids or furry friends growing up.

Make gingerbread houses

What's better than a fun, holiday project to make with the fam? A project that you can eat. Gather icing, chocolate, candy canes, gumdrops, and any other ingredients you desire to build your gingerbread house.

Host a holiday movie night with family

Gather your loved ones for a night of holiday movies and snacks! Sit on the couch or make a fort out of blankets and pillows. Netflix and Hulu have endless amounts of holiday films to choose from.

Donate to a local charity

The holidays aren't just for shopping and buying presents -- they're a time for reflection and giving. Go through your closets, drawers, and garage to collect gently used items you don't need anymore. You can donate to a number of charitable organizations and nonprofits in your area.

Bake holiday treats to hand out to your neighbors

Choose a delicious dessert to bake with your family and friends. Wrap them up in decorative tins to hand out in your neighborhood or leave them out with a glass of milk for that special someone who comes down the chimney.

See a holiday show

Attend a holiday play or musical in the nearest city or at your local community theater. From classics like *The Nutcracker* and *A Christmas Carol* to newer shows like *Scrooge The Musical* and *Elf the Musical*, you're sure to find a performance the entire family will enjoy.

December Calendar

12/2 - Hanukkah Begins

12/21 - Winter Solstice

12/25 - Christmas Day

12/31 - New Year's Eve

5 Great Websites for Unique Holiday Gifts

Loopandtie.com

At Loop & Tie, you select a collection of gift options and your recipient chooses their favorite one. It's really that simple!

Oliveandcocoa.com

Olive and Cocoa brings a personal touch to unique and elegant gifting. Every gift is carefully packaged inside handcrafted wooden boxes with a satin ribbon.

Designboom.com/shop

This is the *perfect* online shop for design lovers and art fanatics. Designboom Shop is filled with creative gifts you won't find anywhere else. Want a grass armchair or shark umbrella stand? Designboom Shop has it!

Knackshops.com

Knack selects merchants they're passionate about and includes webpages on each one to share their story. Choose from hand-selected items to build a custom gift package and add your own personal touch. Categories range from spa and travel to gourmet food and home entertaining.

Uncommongoods.com

This company isn't only dedicated to unique and creative merchandise — they're committed to sustainability. Uncommon Goods stays true to their values by using recycled paper and friendly packaging materials that are good for the environment.



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Holiday Chocolate Toffee

This homemade treat doubles as a great gift!

Ingredients:

1 1/4 c. (2 1/2 sticks) butter
1 1/4 c. sugar
1/2 tsp. vanilla
pinch of kosher salt
2 c. semisweet chocolate chips
1/2 c. toasted chopped almonds
1/2 c. toasted chopped pecans
flaky sea salt, for garnish

Instructions:

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a saucepan over medium heat, combine butter, sugar, vanilla, and salt. Let butter melt and sugar dissolve and bring to a boil, then cook, stirring constantly with a spatula, so

the butter and sugar don't separate, until mixture turns a dark amber and is thick, 12 to 15 minutes. (If you'd like to use a candy thermometer for this step, attach it to the saucepan and cook until the temperature reaches 285°.)

Pour toffee mixture onto a prepared baking sheet and immediately top all over with chocolate chips. Let sit 2 minutes so chocolate begins to melt, then spread chocolate all over with a spatula to create a layer on top of toffee.

Sprinkle all over with almonds and pecans (use chopped crumbs too for nice texture!) and flaky sea salt.

Refrigerate until set, about 1 hour, then cut or break into pieces and serve.



Photo & recipe courtesy of [delish.com](https://warranty.life/2Az1ZF2)
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