



Are you or a loved one in need of necessary home repairs but can't afford them?

GET YOUR HOME READY FOR THE *Holidays!* with these easy SLIM Tips & Tricks!



We may be able to help you find resources & help you fill out the paperwork!

# Slim's Tips on getting your home ready for the Holidays!

Things you'll WANT to do:

## Clean Up Your Doorway

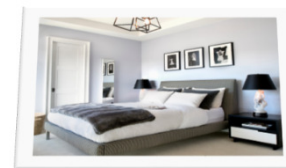
When getting ready to have guests stay in our homes, we tend to focus on what's happening inside. This means we can often overlook the part of our house that visitors see first: the doorway.

Before friends and family arrive, be sure your doorstep is swept and that your entryway is organized.



## Stock Up on Guest Supplies

Feel prepared by making sure you have multiple sets of all living essentials. Towels, sheets, pillows, shampoos, etc. Keep these on a shelf that is designated for guests. This way it's easy to find just what you need when a visiting friend or family member needs it. Don't forget to add in a few extra blankets!



## Think Storage

Take inventory of the storage you have in your home, and invest in more if necessary. You don't want your guests to have to live out of their suitcases, so make sure you have enough dressers and cupboards in their designated area.



## Create a Miniature Necessities Station – including toiletries

This is a nice touch that will add that extra bit of comfort to your guest's stay. Be inspired by hotels and set up a little station where visitors can find all of their basic necessities. This can consist of lotions, candles, water, snacks, a robe and slippers—even some coffee! May we suggest a nice lotion or oil from *Maria's Living Fragrance – Aromatherapy Essentials*

Visit their page: <https://www.facebook.com/MariasLivingFragrance/>



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*Things you'll NEED to do:*

## GET A TUNE-UP

Company's coming. It's time to clean up your act.

Getting ready for the holidays isn't just about registering your online wish list, making your hair appointments at the blowout bar and plotting the mantel decorations. It's the time to take stock of critical home issues, such as whether your toilet flappers are flapping properly.

## Dining room chair review

You'll probably be spending more time than usual around your dining table in the next few months. It's a good time to give each of your chairs a test drive. If some of them rock back and forth or feel wobbly, they might need regluing, whether they're 19th-century family treasures or recent buys from Pottery Barn.

Chairs get loose when diners push back from the table with their feet or their back, putting pressure on the backs of chairs and weakening joints. (The proper way to get up from the table is to lift the weight of your body up and push the chair back with your hands.)

Take a hard look at the chair seats. If the fabric looks worn or stained, freshen the chair up with new fabric and maybe some additional padding. If you're a DIY type, go at it. Otherwise, give us a call.



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## Plumbing tune-up

You give your car regular maintenance; why not your plumbing? It could save some awkward conversations with your in-laws, such as describing the correct way to jiggle the handle of the only toilet in your house to get it to flush.

Plumbing companies get a lot of emergency calls over the holidays, when homes are packed and kitchens and bathrooms are in use almost 24/7. A lot of things related to plumbing get neglected throughout the year. You're talking slow drains, shower drains plugged with hair, clogged sinks, toilets that run on and dripping faucets. You can make a list of issues or have a whole-house inspection.

Here are few cautionary notes: Clogged kitchen sinks are a huge issue over the holidays. People are doing a lot of cooking and shoving everything down that garbage disposal with the two worst culprits being grease and potato peels. Putting grease down the drain is basically like clogging your arteries. In other words, don't do it. Peels are also dangerous. People are making a lot of mashed potatoes, and they cram peels down the sink. You can't put five cups of peels down there. Here's Slim's advice: Peel potatoes in the sink, but scoop up the debris and dispose elsewhere. Ask any kitchen helpers to do the same.

## Fireplace checkup

Imagine lighting the first cozy fire of the season Thanksgiving afternoon as the aroma of roasting turkey fills the house and guests start arriving. If this is a scenario in your future, lay in a supply of firewood and have your fireplace inspected. Now.

An inspection can clarify whether you need your chimney swept or repaired. The inspection is a snapshot of your chimney that could turn up any number of things: birds, raccoons, squirrels, branches, leaves, spider webs or basketballs or even water-damage in your masonry. Now, we don't perform fireplace/chimney inspections so we're sending you over to the Chimney Safety Institute of America [www.csia.org](http://www.csia.org) where you can find certified professionals.

Know where your fire extinguisher is, and make sure it is fully charged and ready to use. Don't ever burn wrapping paper or pizza boxes in your fireplace, as this can rapidly cause large flames to spill out of the fireplace or go up the chimney. Hopefully, you won't be ordering a large mushroom-and-pepperoni on Thanksgiving.

## Slim's Tips on getting your home ready for the Holidays!

*More things you'll NEED to do to get ready for your guests – with some extras!*

### WALKWAY

Replace blown-out bulbs in exterior lights.  
Scatter sand or kitty litter on slippery steps.  
Knock away icicles hanging above the front door—no skewering your guests!  
Add an MP3 Doorbell: This doorbell plays snippets of your MP3s instead of that boring old ding-dong. Install it in less than an hour!

### ENTRY

Add a dimmer switch to the hallway fixture (soft light = instant mood-setter).  
Roll out a runner to absorb slush and snow.  
Fix squeaky hardwood floors by sweeping graphite powder into the cracks.  
Forget carving out more hanging space. A portable coat rack adds “closet” capacity in a hallway.

### LIVING ROOM

Ratchet down the thermostat by 3 degrees F—guests hate sweating over their holiday cocktails.  
Keep area rugs in place with double-sided tape to prevent tripping and slipping.  
Treat fabric-covered furniture with a protective spray, such as Scotchgard, so that spills don't become a permanent record.  
A storage ottoman provides extra seating or a place to put drinks.

### DINING ROOM

Plug up window drafts with weather-stripping or caulk.  
Add seat cushions, especially for folding chairs, to ward off marathon-meal butt numbness.  
Fill scratches in the dining room table with colored paste wax.  
No need to build an island. Move a wheeled cart between the dining area and kitchen for a temporary buffet setup.

### POWDER ROOM/HALF-BATH

Scrape away deposits from the series of flush holes under the toilet bowl rim so that guests don't have to double flush.  
Replace the washer or O-ring on an annoyingly drippy tap.  
Rinse out grit from the faucet's filter screen to keep the water flowing.  
Even the tiniest half-bath has room for a sturdy ring for holiday hand towels.

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