

# Reduce holiday entertaining stress



Cook more than one dish at a time with a three-tier oven rack.

Entertaining for the holidays can be a lot of work, but it doesn't mean you have to sacrifice having fun while you do it. The experts at Bed Bath & Beyond offer tips for making your gatherings simple, easy and stress-free (almost).

## Make a game plan

When planning your holiday entertaining, the key to minimizing holiday-induced anxiety is to plan in advance.

- ° Start by determining the amount of people you expect for dinner and overnight guests.
- ° Take inventory. Make sure you have the essentials for your holiday meal — both basics and serving pieces.
- ° Think off the wall. If you're hosting a buffet, set up the buffet away from the wall to utilize both sides of the table. Maximize space on your table by using stepped serving pieces. Have a small footprint such as a three tier stepped serving rack.

## Time-saving tips for the holiday chef

Adding these key items into your holiday routine will save you time by facilitating planning, execution and clean-up.

- ° Oven to table: Choose bake and serve warmers for your holiday needs. These stylish serving pieces not only look great, but they will also keep your food warm, freeing up essential space on your stove.
- ° Create more oven space: With a three-tier oven rack, put an end to waiting for one dish to cook before baking another. It creates more usable space on one side of your oven, leaving the other side open for more bulky food, like the turkey, and collapses for easy storage.
- ° Go for easy clean-up: Sometimes the preparation and cooking is easier than the clean up. Don't be without a non-stick removable

## Avoid last-minute panic

The more prepared you are for the holidays, the less stressful they will be. Think ahead and plan for the "unexpected." This way you can enjoy your own party.

- \* Don't cry over spilled wine! Use a microfiber tablecloth that allows spills to bead up and wipe away cleanly.
- \* If you are expecting a lot of people, have folding chairs on hand for extra seating. For a more formal, uniform look, add regular or special folding chair covers.
- \* An inflatable **Aero**® Bed is the answer to that unanticipated sleepover guest. When the guest leaves, simply deflate and store it for the next visit. Don't forget the extra sheets and blankets!

— Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection