

December Community Newsletter

Tips for Living, Laughing and Loving Your Apartment Life

APARTMENT LIVING TIP

5 Alternative Places to Hang Your Stockings

even if you don't have a fireplace, that doesn't mean you can't take part in this festive holiday tradition. There are several alternatives that are just as fun!

- 1) Windows - When hanging up lights inside your home, think about putting up your stockings too! Hang them from the lights or hook them on to the window.
- 2) Bedposts - This is especially fun for the kids because they wake up with presents already waiting for them.
- 3) Dresser - Hanging it off the dresser knobs is simple and you don't even have to buy nails to do it.
- 4) Stocking Rack - A newer, popular idea is a custom stocking rack. These only cost a few bucks and can be found on online shops like Etsy.
- 5) Chairs - If you have enough room at the dinner table for everyone you are planning to buy stockings for, you can hang the stockings on the back of the chair.

No matter where you decide to hang your stockings, always remember it's all about fun! Not having a fireplace should not mean you can't be creative! Look all over your home for opportunities to decorate and you will bring you and your family more holiday cheer.

SEASONAL RECIPE

Molasses Cookies

1/2 c. Butter, softened
1/2 c. Brown sugar
1/4 c. Shortening
3/4 c. Molasses
1 Egg
3 c. All-purpose flour
1 tsp. Baking soda
1 tsp. Ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp. Ground ginger
1/4 tsp. Salt
1/4 tsp. Ground cloves
Sugar

Combine butter, brown sugar, shortening, molasses, and egg in a bowl. Beat at medium speed. Add flour, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, salt, and cloves. Beat at low speed until mixed well. Cover and refrigerate 1-2 hours or until firm.

Heat oven to 375°F. Shape dough into 1 1/2 inch balls and roll in sugar. Place 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheets. Flatten balls. Bake 8-11 minutes or until set.

FUN APARTMENT

4 Christmas Tree Ideas for Your Apartment

Just because you live in smaller space, doesn't mean that your decorating can't be festive and unique. Here are some tree ideas for your apartment that will make the most of your space and maximize the holiday spirit.

- 1) Miniature Christmas Tree - There aren't many things cuter than a miniature Christmas tree! Decorate these table top trees, real or artificial, with miniature lights, garland, tiny ornaments, and top it off with a little star on top.
- 2) A Half Christmas Tree - Yes, there really is such a thing! You can even buy a quarter tree to tuck into a corner and they won't take up half the space of a traditional Christmas tree. You'll be sure to have the most unique display in your building.
- 3) The Wall Tree - There are several ways that you can use an open wall space to make a tree. You can hang lights on the wall in the shape of a tree, use decals, or hang ornaments on the wall in the pattern of a tree. Simply place your presents in front the tree for Christmas morning.
- 4) The Upside-Down Christmas Tree - One of the hottest fads of this holiday season is the upside-down tree. It's either on a stand or can be hung from the ceiling. This was, in fact, first used in Medieval Europe when people lived in smaller homes. You'll have more space on the floor and these also come in corner and half-tree shapes for additional space-saving.

These creative, fun and out-of-the-box alternatives to the traditional Christmas tree will not only help you to make great use of your space, but they'll also put you in the festive spirit in no time.



FUN FACT: Polar bears can eat as many as 86 penguins in a single sitting. (If they lived in the same place.)

COMMUNITY TIP

Help Out Your Neighbors During the Holidays

The holidays are a time for gift-giving and overall generosity. Here are a few ideas for how to help out your neighbors.

- 1) Car Troubles - Car troubles are among the most inconvenient, preventing people from getting to work or causing general frustration for drivers due to cold weather. It's particularly difficult for people who park outside on the side of the street year-round. Help by offering to dig cars out of snow or if someone is stuck on an icy road and can't move their vehicle, pour salt on the area and help them push their car out.
- 2) Donate Money or Items - If you're feeling charitable, donate some money to local charity organizations in your community. Donate items you no longer need like that old computer or gently used clothing.
- 3) Holiday Cards - Mailmen, trash collectors and others with government jobs aren't often seen, let alone given appreciation for their services. A nice thing you can do for them is leave them a holiday "Thank You" card or some treats.
- 4) Adopt a Family - If you belong to a church or another group in your community, adopt a family that's experiencing hardships. Whether they're suffering financially and emotionally from a tragic loss, or struggling with health crises, you can do your part to help them by encouraging fund-raising and gift-giving in the community.

These are simply some of the ways you can help your neighbors and your community during the holidays, and make the season better for those around you.

MY QUESTION

What are some apartment traveling tips?

- 1) Make sure all windows and doors are locked securely
- 2) Take trash to the dumpster or appropriate trash pick-up spot
- 3) Take care of pet accommodation arrangements
- 4) Set thermostat to a good temperature so that it isn't running up your bill
- 5) Let your neighbors know you will be gone so that they can keep their eye out for you
- 6) Turn off your computer, TV, fans, and any other electricity consuming item

