

The Christmas Pack-Down

Everything that goes wrong in December was decided in January, in a hurry, by someone who wanted it over with.

Test the lights BEFORE they go away, not after they come out. A dead set found in January is a dead set you replace in the sales.

PACK BY ZONE, NOT BY TYPE

- ☐ Box 1: the tree, and only tree things
- ☐ Box 2: mantelpiece, shelves, the main room
- ☐ Box 3: front door, hall, outside
- ☐ Box 4: table, crackers, napkins, the day itself

LIGHTS, DONE PROPERLY

- ☐ Test every set before it goes away
- ☐ Wind each set on card or pipe insulation, secure the end
- ☐ One set per bag, labelled with where it goes
- ☐ Note which ones failed, for the sales

BEFORE IT GOES UP THE LADDER

- ☐ Chipped, broken or hookless: it goes now, not next November
- ☐ Sentimental ones in their own small box, never at the bottom
- ☐ Glass in a compartment box, never loose
- ☐ Nothing fragile in a freezing loft or a hot garage
- ☐ Label the SIDE of the box, saying what and where

THE NOTE TO NEXT YEAR

- ☐ What we ran out of
- ☐ What did not get used at all
- ☐ What broke and needs replacing in the sales
- ☐ What I swore I would do differently

NOTES
