

## Five top Christmas decorations you can't be without.

Children's Interior designer, Diana Stroh, reveals timeless decorations you can use every year without going out of style.

"Is it that time already?" I hear you cry, "We've only just had Easter!"

"Panic, not!" I say, the following ideas for decorating your home at Christmas will last you for many years to come.

1. The Christmas tree is an essential in any home.  
Choose a good quality artificial tree if you have a home full of kids and animals to avoid pine needles being scattered all over the house.  
If selecting a real tree, ensure that it can be pot planted and grown all year round.  
Think reusable.
2. A fairy for the top of the tree is still a childhood favourite.  
She has to be a classic design, as if fresh from the pages of your most treasured story book, no modern day impostors will do for this role!
3. An Advent calendar. With so many great original designs out there, the age of the numbered chocolate box is over.  
Try creating a theme for your advent calendar or devise a daily treasure hunt.  
Make it as dramatic or simple as you like, kid's will love it!
4. White fairy lights will see you through many Christmas celebrations and always look magical. Squeeze two or three sets around the tree for a really extravagant look or drop a set into a tall glass vase for an unusual side light.
5. Lastly, for that Christmas Eve touch of anticipation and magic, a Christmas stocking.  
Try to find a simple fabric design that can be personalised with fabric pieces or left-over decorations for each family member.

Above all, Enjoy!

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