

## PACKING UP DECORATIONS

When the twelve days of Christmas have come and gone it is time to get organized and get the decorations into storage. When you are packing storage bins and boxes with decorations, be sure to label them clearly. If you decorate several rooms, you should box all decorations by room. Here are some tips for specific storage ideas.

### WRAP YOUR WREATHS

Available in storage and some department stores are containers designed specifically for wreaths. They come in all sizes and usually have a hook so you can take advantage of vertical space in closets. Otherwise, use the box from the winter boots you got for Christmas as it will house a medium sized wreath. Another option is to cover the wreath in a bag and tie a loop through it so you can hang it up and out of the way.

### LIGHT THE WAY

Take the time now to pack up your lights properly so you are not untangling them while balancing on a ladder next December. Cut out cardboard rectangles with slits on either side and wrap one string around each of them. Once wrapped up, place each string in its own plastic bag before storing together in a box or plastic storage bin. If you have used your lights for more than four seasons, it may be time to replace them. Some hydro suppliers were offering incentives to replace old lights with the low-energy LED lights so check your local provider before shopping.

### BEADS, BALLS AND OTHER BLING

If you don't have your decoration's original boxes, you can create a safe way to store them with things found in your home. Instead of individually wrapping large ornaments, place them in Styrofoam cups. Shred up old newspapers or use torn wrapping paper in a large box and place the filled cups inside to prevent them from rolling around. The old favourite of using egg cartons is great for smaller ornaments and shoe boxes work well too.

Be sure to check what decorations need replacing now and take advantage of the sales that are currently on. Maybe you want to change your colour scheme or you saw something at a friend's house you'd like to try. When is it time to say farewell to Christmas, make it a fun event. Turn on your Christmas music for a final Fah, Lah, Lah and crack open the eggnog for your last cheers!