

# #184 - Find Your Holiday Decorating Personality

Hi there! You're listening to The Lazy Genius Podcast! I'm Kendra Adachi, and I'm here to help you be a genius about the things that matter and lazy about the things that don't! Today is episode 184 - Find Your Holiday Decorating Personality. It's the middle of November, and some of you might have already gone through the process of decorating or you're putting it off because it's overwhelming or you always do the weekend after Thanksgiving which is coming up, but the point is it's kind of time. And it can be very overwhelming. Today, I want to give you a lens through which to view your decorating so you can find your holiday decorating personality and then offer five steps on getting yourself prepared to actually do it. We want fun, not frustration, so let's jump in.

But before we start, we have to name what matters. Every process around here begins with naming what matters because it's that important. If we don't name what matters, we can lose sight of why we're doing something or who we're doing it for. We can burnout, get grumpy, or lose interest in why we do things in the first place. Which just doesn't sound like the kind of holiday festive merriment we're going for in the first place. So name what matters.

As you consider what matters to you at Christmas or maybe just what matters this particular season, think about what kind of decorating makes the most sense for you or your family or whoever you share your home with.

I think there are three main types of techniques when it comes to actually putting decorations up: Clearing the Decks, Leading with Your Senses, and Going Slow.

Clear the Decks decorators like to get everything out and up in record time for their maximum holiday enjoyment. I can't help but think of that trend on Instagram Reels where you snap and whatever is in front of the camera is magically transformed when I think of this style of decorating. It's efficient and fun and sometimes chaotic, but the point is to get the decorations up so you can focus on the holiday movies, the hot cocoa, or whatever matters most during the season.

Lead with Your Senses decorators think of the whole vibe of a room as decorating. The Christmas music playing in the background and the candles burning around the room are just as much part of their holiday decorations as twinkly lights and matching stockings. My friend Myquillyn Smith is a prime example of a Lead with Your Senses decorator and she wrote a whole book about it, which came out this year called *Welcome Home: A Cozy Minimalist Guide to Decorating and Hosting All Year Round*.

And last but not least, we have the Go Slow decorators, who see decorating as another way to prepare themselves and their families for the season. Much like an Advent calendar marks the days leading up to Christmas, Go Slow decorators view the process as a journey, not so much as a destination.

Now that we've identified three types of decorators, let's run through some simple steps for actually putting up decorations and how they apply to each type.

Step number one. Pick a day and rhythm that makes sense for you. There's zero joy in trying to cram your holiday decorating into pockets of time between Zoom meetings and grocery pickup. Cramming holiday tasks into the margins of your day, which likely isn't your goal, can totally happen if you're not intentional about when you want to do it. So step number one is to pick a day when you know you'll have the energy to tackle it. If you're a Clear the Decks kind of decorator, you'll want an afternoon or whole day. If you're a Senses decorator, maybe a rhythm works better for you, like starting with fragrances and lighting first then adding in your tree and decor later. For you Go Slow decorators, you'll probably want a day to assess and plan then a rhythm to implement it. Maybe you add a few more things one evening a week.

Step number two. Tidy the areas in your home that will feature decorations. Now, this can be a full-on Go Clean Co. deep clean if you want it to be, or it can be as simple as dusting your mantle and putting away part of your kid's Halloween costume that got left behind in your entry way weeks ago. If you've been around here for a while, you know I like to think of morning routines as kindly opening the day by gradually increasing my productive energy. The same concept applies here. By tidying up beforehand, you can better see where your holiday decorations actually go or where you can switch things up if you need a holiday refresh. So that's step two: tidy before you lug out the bins of decor, and this applies no matter your decorating style.

Step number three. Remember your decoration limitations. In our Instagram comparison world, it's easy to not know when to stop with the trees and the lights and the ornaments and the elves. We can easily get caught up in that "more, more more!" way of living, and before we know it, we're staring at an enormous inflatable reindeer to put on the roof when we don't really care about reindeers or roof decorations. So remember your decorating limitations, maybe even create some. Maybe choosing a color palette that works with your everyday home but adds a little pop of color or sparkle is a good limitation for you. Or maybe you want to choose snowflakes over Santa to get a little more mileage out of your decor. If you're a Go Slow decorator, one limitation could be to only use things that are high-impact. You don't need to do a lot, but what you do will make a big statement. If you're a Senses decorator, maybe a limitation for you is to only buy decorations you can use December through February. And if you like to Clear the Decks, a good starter limit could be decorating no more than one room at a time.

Step number four. Pull out your decorations and assess. Whether your decorations are carefully packed away in color-coordinated boxes or laying in the attic where you stress-tossed them at the end of last year, you need to pull them out to see what you're working with. Personally, I like to lay everything out in our dining room so I can group things together by room or purpose. This allows me to take stock of what we have, remember special pieces that have been gifted to us by family and friends, and remove anything that no longer fits our style. Over the years, I've found this step a prime example of the Lazy Genius Principle: Go in the Right Order because I can see what I have to use as I decorate instead of pulling things randomly out of a box and

unwrapping the tissue paper then deciding where it goes. It's so helpful to see everything before you make any moves. It's kind of like our zones in the kitchen, where if you start loading the dishwasher before all the dishes are in the dirty dishes zone in front of you, you'll have to move stuff around. The same concept applies here. And that's true for all three of the decorating types.

And finally step number five. Decorate and enjoy, whatever that means for you. Maybe you like to put on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade as you trim your tree. Or maybe you'd rather wait until your house is free of tiny humans. For a time, I liked to take all of my decor down, like the art and photos off the walls, books off shelves, everything, then add it back with my Christmas decor mixed in. It made our ordinary, everyday home feel a bit more magical. But now, I like to add in seasonal touches like candles that smell like pine and pull out all the cozy blankets before we go all in with our tree. I'm definitely leaning into my Leading with My Senses style of decorating, and by naming that and decorating that way without feeling weird about it, I get to enjoy it even more. The goal here is to have a home that feels welcoming to those who live in it, whatever that means for you. You don't have to have a "finished" room. You don't have to have a "magazine-worthy" tree. And you *definitely* don't have to impress people. That usually only ends in catastrophe anyway. Simply decorate until it's not fun anymore. Try again the next day, and if it's still not fun, then guess what? You're done!

I hope you've found these five steps helpful for your holiday decorating and that naming your decorating permission might give you permission to move forward in the best way for you. If you want more Lazy Genius holiday ideas, there are lots of episodes in the archives, which I'll link to in the show notes, but you can also find ideas by searching "holiday" at [www.thelazygeniuscollective.com](http://www.thelazygeniuscollective.com).

Thanks so much for being here and until next time, be a genius about the things that matter and lazy about the things that don't. I'm Kendra, and I'll see you next week!