

In Touch with *meltco*

December 2018

"If you can push through that feeling of being scared, that feeling of taking a risk, really amazing things can happen." - Marissa Mayer

The Right Way to Prepare for a Winter Storm

How does one really prepare for winter? Gloves? Hat? Shovel? There are numerous unique ways to plan, and to make it simple *LifeHacker* has put a list together for us:

Emergency or First Aid Kit

Always have an emergency kit in your home and vehicle and make sure that it's up to date and not missing anything.

Ice Melt

By having a product that best suits your climatic conditions and average low temps, you'll need to apply less of it. Additionally, make sure to have at least one extra bag at home (or several pallets in your warehouse) for emergency use.

Prescription Medication Refills

Something so common can be forgotten, however we're here to remind you to have all your prescriptions handy in case you get snowed in.

Flashlight and Extra Batteries

Most of us have at least one flashlight on hand, but does it work? Confirm ahead of time that the batteries are new and that you'll have enough power in case of a power outage.

An Emergency Radio

While most of us might not listen to the radio anymore, it's a good time to have one around (they're quite inexpensive) in case you'll need to keep up with all current weather alerts.

Snow Removal Gear

Take a look in your garage, do you have a suitable snow shovel or working snow blower? Make sure you're prepared with all appropriate clothing and boots to keep you warm during a snow removal session.

What's the Forecast?

Snow Business, a SIMA publication, presented their look at the first forecast for winter 2018-2019 and it looks to be a high precipitation season, especially in the New England market. Forecasted this year “the highest chance to exceed normal snowfall are the central and southern Appalachians and the mountains of the southwest United States.” There will be frequent snowfall activities throughout the season where “Northwest/British Columbia and the I-95 corridor in the mid-Atlantic could see high snowfall.”

Forecast Themes Include

- Subtropical jet stream favored to bring active weather to the Gulf of Mexico and perhaps East Coast
- Average to above normal Lake Effect expected, especially very late November and December
- Seasonal cold Central Plains to the mid-Atlantic

Table below shows a comparison of seasonal snowfall events compared to the 30-year average.

CITIES	SEASONAL TOTAL						Normal Snowfall (1981-2010 Avg.)
	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	
Baltimore, MD	15.4	3.0	35.1	28.7	39.0	8.0	20.1
Boston, MA	59.9	47.6	36.1	110.6	58.9	63.4	43.8
Buffalo, NY	112.3	76.1	55.1	112.9	129.9	58.8	94.7
Chicago, IL	36.1	26.1	31.2	50.7	82.0	30.1	36.3
Denver, CO	25.7	21.8	72.8	57.8	38.4	78.4	53.8
Minneapolis, MN	78.3	32.0	36.7	32.4	69.8	67.7	54.4
Montreal, QC	99.4	92.6	66.7	80.2	71.1	97.4	82.5
Nashville, TN	3.0	2.2	11.3	6.1	1.6	1.5	6.3
New York, NY (JFK)	35.5	30.9	41.4	44.2	45.6	17.6	23.8
Toronto, ON	43.0	33.5	25.9	39.1	54.4	42.0	42.7
Vancouver, BC	10.6	27.4	0.4	0.8	13.9	7.8	15.0

Winter Activities for the Whole Family

Outdoor:

- Snowball fight, build a snowman, tobogganing/sledding, play hockey, make snow angels, build a snow fort, ice skating on a frozen pond or local rink, snowshoeing, dog sledding, ice fishing, hit the slopes for tubing, skiing and snowboarding.
- Try snow painting – add food coloring to water in a spray bottle for kids to decorate the snow.

Indoor:

- Make paper snowflake chains, bake Christmas cookies, decorate the house with lights, make a pot of mulled wine/spiced cider, cozy up in front of a fireplace with hot chocolate or your favorite book, collect canned goods for your local food bank, decorate your tree, make a gingerbread house, sing Christmas carols, make DIY Christmas crafts.

The North Pole Cocktail



INGREDIENTS

- 4 ounces vodka
- 2 ounces Kahlúa or more to taste
- 4 tablespoons chocolate syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 teaspoons molasses
- 1/8 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 cup heavy cream or whole milk
- whipped cream candy canes and gingerbread cookies, for serving (optional)

DIRECTIONS

In a cocktail shaker combine the vodka, Kahlúa, chocolate syrup, vanilla, molasses, and ginger. Shake until well combined. Add ice and shake again. Strain into 4 glasses. Top off each glass with heavy cream. Dollop with whipped cream and garnish as desired. DRINK!

Rolf's German Restaurant

Rolf's German Restaurant located in Manhattan serves a mix of the French Alsace and German Bavarian cuisine. The extravagant Christmas décor creates a fairy-tale like atmosphere, encompassing you in the holiday spirit. The bar spends over \$60,000 per year to prepare for the holiday season, and by December the lineup wraps around the block with locals and tourists immersing themselves in the spirit. The decoration starts at the end of September, and “over the following six weeks, six men work overnight, five nights a week, to complete the ornate decorating process.” Check it out next time you're in the area, it's worth the wait!



Santa Claus is Coming to Town

When it comes to Santa, parents all over the country have struggled with explaining the real story of Jolly Saint Nick. But for the Rush family, that's when Christmas gets even more special. When Leslie Rush realized her son Adam was starting to suspect something was off, she brought him in on the secret. Instead of denying Santa's existence, she told him he was now old enough to become one of the many Santa's around the world that work to give back. Leslie explains,

“In our family, we have a special way of transitioning the kids from receiving from Santa, to becoming a Santa. This way, the Santa construct is not a lie that gets discovered, but an unfolding series of good deeds and Christmas spirit. When they are 6 or 7, whenever you see that dawning suspicion that Santa may not be a material being, that means the child is ready.”

When choosing the person to be Santa for, the idea is to be thoughtful and considerate. Adam decided he wanted to help a lady that lived down the street who he noticed would go out barefoot every morning to get her newspaper from the driveway. Adam took the opportunity of being Santa to buy her a new pair of slippers. He watched with glee when she came out to get the paper the next day - dressed in his slippers!

Adam eventually had a son of his own. At around the same age he was when he found out the truth, he brought his son Tristan into the Santa club. This Rush family tradition has been passed down for at least 5 generations, with Adam's grandmother getting tapped to become Santa by her grandfather during the Great Depression.

Leslie continues to believe in the “Spirit of St. Nick,” as she calls it. Doing something caring and considerate for someone is what the giving season is truly all about.

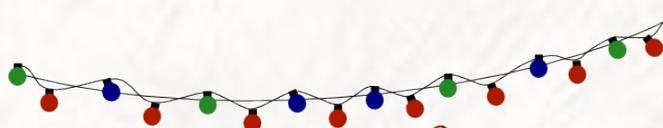


December Events:

December 1 st	Get your advent calendars out!
December 2 nd	Hanukkah celebrations begin at sundown and end on December 10 th .
December 21 st	Winter Solstice: first day of winter
December 24 th	Christmas Eve is also National Egg Nog Day
December 25 th	Merry Christmas!
December 26 th	Boxing Day in Canada and Kwanzaa celebrations begin until Jan. 1 st
December 31 st	New Year's Eve!

Wishing you all a fantastic holiday season with lots of fun and plenty of food and drinks!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from our team to yours!



Happy Holidays!