

Seven weeks to go until Christmas! With many households putting up the tree early this year, Justine Wilson Founder of Vault Interiors Property Styling shares her trends and expert tips to get the house ready for the festive season. According to Justine, there are three key trends we should expect to see throughout homes across the country including, a cooler toned Christmas, a twist on the classic elegant palette and a return to a more rustic, cabin, farmhouse style of decorating. "Like many others, I have already set up and styled my home for the festive season. With the year we've all had its time to bring some joy and fun back into our lives and let's be honest, it takes a bit of effort to put up the decorations, so why not enjoy them for longer!" said Justine. Justine believes that duck egg blue, mint and navy will be the big accent colours this year. Think cooler-toned hues paired with white snowy, frosty flocked trees, garlands and wreaths with the main metallic colours for this scheme being silvers and whites. Justine says, "This is a more glam approach to Christmas styling, so I see things like white feather boa's in place of standard tinsel and finishing materials like sequins and pearls and glitter being prominent on the ornaments." She predicts that burgundy plum and magenta will also be popular tones for decorating, a twist on the traditional bright cherry red usually seen in Christmas accessories. "This look is a nod to a more classic palette and will be very elegant. I see this being paired with dark green or real trees, lots of gold accents with serving ware and ornaments also. Plus, you can still bring in glittery elements like gold deer statues, brass candlesticks and mercury glass décor to create a cohesive look," said Justine. When it comes to the style of decorating, expect to see a return to a more rustic, cabin, farmhouse style. Justine explains, "Think of big leafy garlands in evergreen tones, realism in the greenery mixed with twigs, grapevine and pine cones. This look will be very paired back and simplistic, think a green pre-lit tree without many ornaments or very sparse ornaments, lots of runs of green woodland style garland on tablescape and lots of candles. Almost a turn of the 20th-century approach to decorating!" Justine's top 3 stylist tips for making the most of your decorations: 1. Ensure you "fluff" out your tree if it's an artificial one: This means fluff out the individual branches when you set up your tree. They get squashed and crushed when in the box or being stored so it's imperative to get it feeling full again. It's a tedious process but makes your tree feel more realistic and will hide any empty gaps. My suggestion – wear gloves it can be scratchy! 2. Place inexpensive baubles deep into the tree: We often forget to style the back that you don't see, or the inside of the tree so remember to do so. Lumping all the ornaments on the outer branches will make the tree feel bare and unbalanced – so if you want a full looking tree, place levels of ornaments within the tree. This will create visual depth and interest if there are many layers. 3. Add extra sparkle: There are many wonderful prelit trees if you choose an artificial tree, but sometimes they don't have the sparkle/ twinkle function, just flat LED lights. I recommended adding a pack of battery operated twinkle lights in addition to your normal lighting, this gives the tree added dimension, movement and the twinkling feature reflects light around the tree, bringing the ornaments to life, and creating a more magical appearance overall. For more styling tips go to: [www.vaultinteriors.com.au](http://www.vaultinteriors.com.au)

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