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**Celia Manley Properties**

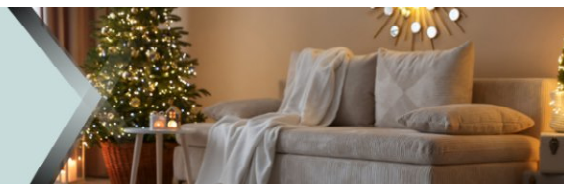
buy. sell. live.



“*December, being the last month of the year, cannot help but make us think of what is to come.*

~Fennel Hudson

## WARM AND WELCOMING WINTER SPACES



As we move into the winter season, our homes become the setting for more of our daily routines. Shorter daylight hours and cooler temperatures encourage us to spend more time indoors. This makes winter a good time to look at how your home feels and functions. A few thoughtful adjustments can help your space feel more comfortable, whether you are preparing to sell or simply enjoying the season.

### Focus on Lighting

Winter brings less natural sunlight, which makes indoor lighting especially important. Layered lighting, such as using table lamps, floor lamps, and soft accent lights, creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Warm light bulbs tend to feel more inviting than cool, bright ones.

### Bring in Texture and Comfort

Simple additions can help any home feel cozier during winter. Soft throw blankets, textured area rugs, and comfortable pillows add visual and physical warmth. Neutral color palettes work well because they create a sense of calm without overwhelming a room.

### Pay Attention to the Exterior

First impressions still matter, even in winter. Clear walkways and a tidy entrance help a home look well-maintained and welcoming. A clean exterior also sets a positive tone before anyone steps inside.

Winter has a way of drawing us inward. I hope your home feels like a place where you can rest, reconnect, and enjoy the season in your own way.

Realty Times



Sending warm wishes to you this season. Whether you are hosting, traveling, or enjoying quiet time at home, I hope the weeks ahead feel restful and joyful in your own way. I'm grateful to be part of your home journey and here whenever you need me.

# HOMEMADE PEPPERMINT HOT CHOCOLATE



## Ingredients

4 cups milk of choice  
1/3 cup pure maple syrup  
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder  
1/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract

## Instructions

1. Add milk, pure maple syrup, and cocoa powder in a small pot on the stovetop. Heat over medium to medium-low heat, whisking frequently, until the milk is warmed. (Don't let your milk come to a boil. We're just trying to heat it through.)
2. Add the chocolate chips, vanilla extract, and peppermint extract. Whisk until the chocolate chips are melted.
3. Pour hot chocolate into mugs and top with whipped cream or marshmallows. For extra fun, garnish with candy canes and/or chocolate sprinkles.
4. Serve immediately.

The Whole Cook



## EASY WINTER BUCKET IDEAS

Winter tends to change the pace of daily life, no matter the climate. Some places become quieter and cozier, while others stay mild and active. Either way, this season is a natural pause. Here are a few simple ways to enjoy it.

### Enjoy a Slow Morning

Plan one morning with no obligations. Make your coffee or tea a little slower. Let your home feel calm and unhurried for a moment. A relaxed morning can set a positive tone for the week.

### Cook One Comfort Meal

Choose a recipe that feels grounding. It can be homemade soup, warm bread, or a favorite family dish. The act of cooking something intentionally often creates a deeper appreciation for home. It is less about the food and more about the moment it creates.

### Refresh One Small Space

Pick one area of your home that you use often. It could be a nightstand, a reading corner, or the area by the entry door. Clear away a few items, wipe it clean, and reintroduce only what you enjoy seeing. This small refresh can make your home feel lighter and more supportive.

### Plan One Memory With Someone You Care About

Choose a simple activity. It may be a walk, a movie night at home, or an afternoon visit. Connection does not need to be elaborate to be meaningful. What matters is giving the moment your full attention.

These small experiences can help the season feel enjoyable without adding pressure or busy schedules. As always, if you ever need ideas for your home or have questions about future plans, I am here to help when the time feels right.

Simplicity and Sunshine



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