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Tips to Add Space to Your Thanksgiving Table

Do you have limited space in your home and are worried you don't have enough room for all your guests at the Thanksgiving table? Check out these inventive ways for finding the square footage you need for all those invited to your holiday feast.

Swap chairs out for benches

If you only have a few extra people to fit in at the table, try removing your dining chairs and bringing in benches. This allows you to utilize the entire expanse of your table. Your friends and family will be sitting much closer together for this option, so you may want to think about whether any of them would object to the close quarters first.

Bring in a folding table

We'd all love to have a long, beautiful dining table for all our guests. But if you don't have one, bringing in a folding table is an easy solution. Ideally, the two surfaces will be the same height. If not, most people won't mind the size difference and will appreciate that everyone can dine in the same location.



Utilize the kitchen island

It's likely you'll need your kitchen island on Thanksgiving Day for meal prep. In a pinch, however, it can double as a place for Thanksgiving dining. You'll just need to provide a few counter-height stools for folks to sit on and clear and clean the island top before dinner begins. Try to only seat guests at the island who would be comfortable sitting there—bar-height chairs and backless ones might not work well for young children and some adults.

Give the kids their own domain

You might remember being at the kids table when you were small. It's a tradition to have a separate area for the young ones on holidays in many homes. If you own a smaller child-height, table-and-chair set, use this for the little ones. You can make the kids' table more entertaining for younger family members and friends by covering it with craft paper and setting out crayons and markers for drawing.



Expand to other rooms

Still can't fit everyone at the dining table? Allow the holiday celebration to spread out into other sections of your home. If you have the space, set up foldable TV-trays and other tables in your living room or family room. Encourage guests to sit themselves near your coffee and end tables and to use the sofa or upholstered chairs. Window seats and piano benches can provide extra seating too. If your friends and family will be dispersed throughout your home, think about serving the holiday meal buffet-style so everyone can get their food before moving somewhere else to eat.



Bring it outdoors

If you have the yard space and the weather cooperates, why not bring the party outside? You can make use of your patio or deck set for mealtime. Collapsible outdoor or tailgate tables are easy to bring to the backyard to accommodate your guests. The kids might not mind having their own picnic area on a blanket spread out on the lawn. Let your friends and family sit by the warmth of a firepit or patio heater if the temperature is chilly. If your garage or shed can be emptied out and made clean enough to eat in, convert that space into a cute bistro-inspired dining area by adding a small table, chairs, and some string lights. You might want to provide paper plates and cups or melamine dishware for those dining outside to protect fragile glasses and plates or good china.

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