

Thanksgiving Day Countdown Timeline

A worked-back schedule for a classic 5-dish dinner on the table at **4:00 PM**. Pick your serve time first, then count backward. Check each box as you go.

Roast turkey (12–14 lb) + gravy

Stuffing

Mashed potatoes

Green bean casserole

Dinner rolls

Thanksgiving Day

- ☐ **9:30 AM** Coffee, clear the counters, empty the dishwasher. Set the table now while it's calm.
- ☐ **10:30 AM** Turkey out of the fridge. Preheat oven to 325°F. Pat dry, season.
- ☐ **11:00 AM** **Turkey into the oven** (unstuffed, about 3–3¼ hours at 325°F).
- ☐ **12:00 PM** Peel and cube potatoes; hold in cold water. Trim green beans. Quick lunch.
- ☐ **1:00 PM** Assemble stuffing in its baking dish; cover and refrigerate.
- ☐ **1:30 PM** Blanch green beans, assemble casserole (hold topping separate).
- ☐ **2:15 PM** Start checking turkey temperature every 15–20 minutes.
- ☐ **2:45 PM** **Turkey out at 165°F** (thickest part of thigh and breast). Tent with foil to rest. Oven up to 375°F.
- ☐ **2:50 PM** Stuffing into the oven (about 40 min). Potatoes on to boil (about 20 min).
- ☐ **3:00 PM** Make gravy from the pan drippings.
- ☐ **3:05 PM** Green bean casserole into the oven (about 25 min; add topping for the last 5).
- ☐ **3:15 PM** Drain and mash potatoes; cover to keep warm.
- ☐ **3:30 PM** Stuffing and casserole out. Carve the turkey.
- ☐ **3:40 PM** Rolls into the hot oven (8–10 min). Rewarm gravy.
- ☐ **3:50 PM** Plate, platter, pour drinks.
- ☐ **4:00 PM** **Dinner is served.**

Days before

- **Sat/Sun:** Frozen turkey into the fridge to thaw (about 1 day per 4–5 lb).
- **Mon:** Final shopping list. Check you have a meat thermometer and enough foil.
- **Tue:** Cube bread for stuffing and leave out to dry.
- **Wed:** Bake pie. Make the potato and green bean prep list. Chill drinks.

One oven? Plan for it

The turkey's rest (about 45 min) is your side-dish window. Everything that needs the oven goes in after the bird comes out.

Your times

Serving at a different time? Shift every line by the same amount.

Serve at: _____ Turkey in: _____



Let Cleaver time it for you

Cleaver Kitchen's Cook Together puts your dishes on one timeline, worked back from your serve time, with timers and hands-free voice control. Practice first with the free 5-dish Thanksgiving sample dinner. Free on the App Store for iPhone and iPad (Cook Together free for 2 dishes; Pro for 3 or more).