

BUILDING AN ALTAR:

1. Set up your base by choosing a table for the first tier of the altar, and draping a table cloth over it. Typically 3 tiers are created, although you can have more if you wish. Get two or more boxes of various sizes, draping table cloths over them and stacking them to appear similar to stairs.
2. The top tier should be decorated with photos of your loved one/ones.
3. The middle and bottom tiers should be decorated with items that represent your loved one/ones favourite hobbies, meals, and personal items. Items like pan de muertos (a traditional bread), sugar skulls, chocolate, fruit, trinkets and candy are also placed here.
4. It is also common to place items like water, salt, copal or incense, and candles. The water relieves the thirst of your loved one/ones after their travels, the salt protects your loved one, the copal or incense to cleanse the space, and candles to help guide the way. Lanterns can also be used.
5. Add flowers to all 3 tiers. The colours and scents bring happiness to the spirits. Flower petals are also decorated in a trail on the floor to help guide the spirits. Marigolds are commonly used for this.

