

Building a Balanced Board: Board Formula

Category	Purpose on the Board	Examples to Choose From
Cheese	Adds protein, richness, and texture variety	Aged cheddar • Brie/mini brie • Smoked gouda • Goat cheese log • Manchego
Charcuterie / Protein	Savory element + additional protein	Smoked salmon • Prosciutto • Salami • Soppressata • Turkey pepperoni
Crudit� (Veggies)	Color, crunch, fiber	Baby carrots • Cherry tomatoes • Cucumbers • Mini bell peppers • Snap peas • Broccoli florets • Radishes
Fruit	Sweetness, balance, and visual appeal	Grapes • Strawberries • Blueberries • Apple slices • Pomegranate arils • Dried apricots/cranberries
Crunch / Texture	Fill gaps + add satisfying bite	Assorted crackers • Seeded crackers • Breadsticks • Mixed nuts • Candied nuts
Flavor Boosters	Layered flavors to elevate the board	Hummus • Jam • Honey • Dijon/whole-grain mustard • Olives • Cornichons • Dark chocolate
Garnish	Finishing touches for holiday feel	Fresh rosemary • Thyme sprigs
Optional Holiday Touches	Seasonal color + festivity	Cranberry-coated cheeses • Pomegranate arils • Herb-coated cheeses