

Entertaining Ideas

Sneaky Shortcuts For A Successful Party

(NAPSA)—People often throw parties for special occasions like birthdays and holidays, but sometimes the best celebrations are the “just because” parties.

You don't have to plan for weeks, cook for days and clean for hours to host a party your friends will love. Follow these easy steps and you'll be party-ready in no time:

A helping hand. With all the gourmet grocery stores that have opened in recent years, store-bought party help is no longer limited to bottled salad dressing and potato chips.

You can now find freshly made dips, spreads, breads and more at the deli counter. As long as you can keep a secret, your guests won't be the wiser, and you will have saved much prep time in the kitchen.

Two of a kind. For a larger party, invite at least two people from each social circle—your office, the gym, neighborhood, etc. Your friends will feel more comfortable and more inclined to mingle if they know at least one other person at the party, and you won't have to worry about any lonely wallflowers in the corner.

Don't stress to impress. Sometimes the simplest drinks can be the best, so don't worry about wowing guests with fancy cocktails. Aside from water or soda, serve one simple, signature party drink.

A crowd pleaser that takes only two ingredients and just a few seconds is the Baileys Shiver. Simply put Baileys Irish Cream and ice into a blender, blend until smooth and serve in a tall glass. Easy and delicious!



“Just because” is a great excuse to throw a party. Make every event memorable by serving one simple, signature party drink.

Cruise control. Part of your job as host is to be responsible for your guests' safety. If you're serving alcohol at your party, be sure to keep taxi numbers by the phone or organize designated drivers before the party starts, ensuring all guests have a safe ride home.

Clean as you go. One downside to hosting a party is the post-party cleanup, so as you circulate during the party, pick up one crumpled napkin or used glass each time you walk into the kitchen.

No one will notice that you're cleaning, but this small gesture can save you lots of time after the party is over.

For more tips on successful entertaining, visit Baileys.com.

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