How to be a Holiday Host

The art to being a good host combines qualities like cordiality, hospitality, warmth, charm, and graciousness. Being a good host isn't all that difficult, but it does take forethought, practice, and a little talent for multitasking. The most important thing is to make your guests feel comfortable and welcome.

- Plan a guest list of congenial, compatible people
- Invite clearly
- Be ready ahead of time
- Be consistent
- Be prepared
- Remain calm
- Be welcoming
- Be the spark
- Be mindful
- Be the leader
- Make a toast
- Be appreciative

Contingency Plans

Some guests are late

Wait 15 minutes, then start without them.

A guest breaks or spills something

Smooth over the incident and clean it up quickly. The guest should apologize and offer to pay for dam

A guest makes an ethnic slur or an offensive joke

Interrupt and change the subject, or ask for his help in another room, where you can tell him that his c

Unexpected guests show up at your door

Greet them graciously and do your best to include them. Set extra places at the table if possible (eve

A guest has had too much to drink

Cut off the alcohol and take away the car keys. Offer him a place to sleep for the night or drive him ho

There's not enough food

Plate the food, using smaller portions of what's short and larger ones of what's in good supply. Augme

Dinner is overcooked, undercooked, or an otherwise complete disaster

Laugh and order pizza!