

### 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 damage.

### **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 comment is offensive.

### **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 (even if it means eating in the kitchen).

### **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 home.

### **There's not enough food**

Plate the food, using smaller portions of what's short and larger ones of what's in good supply. Augment with bread, fruit, or dessert.

**Dinner is overcooked, undercooked, or an otherwise complete disaster**

Laugh and order pizza!