



this month:

Spring Fling

Five Ideas for a Successful Spring Party



More Helpful Hints

- Consider using plastic serving ware instead of glass to avoid breakage.
- Use citronella candles whenever possible to keep pesky bugs away. Try not to use scented candles outdoors. The fresh smells of the outdoors are the best!
- Focus on foods that don't need flatware; finger foods are best for outdoors.
- Recycle your decor. When the party is over, save anything you can for another party or to share with a friend or neighbor who might be hosting a party soon. Store everything in a plastic bin for future use.

Now that spring has arrived, what better way to celebrate the end of winter than with a fun spring fling? Here are some simple tips for throwing a great party this season:

1) *Choose your location.*

Without a doubt, your spring party should be outdoors if weather allows. Have an outdoor backup plan in case of rain, such as a covered patio or pavilion.

2) *Create your own decorations.*

Use brightly colored tissue paper to make tissue paper flowers, glue them onto garden stakes, and "plant" them around the yard. (If rain is expected, use these as indoor decorations.) Fill wine glasses with colored sand and add candles for a beachy, festive touch. Finally, use spring perennials, strawberry plants, or herbs as decorations that double as party favors.

3) *Freshen up the fare.*

Make sandwiches that look like spring blooms by using tinted bread, and then use cookie cutters to create flower shapes. Create mini versions of fun outdoor food by using dinner rolls and cocktail franks for little hot dogs, as well as small hamburgers on dinner rolls. Ice cream cones made ahead and frozen in the freezer until ready to serve make easy desserts.

4) *Repurpose your kitchenware.*

Martini and wine glasses work great for serving small appetizers and desserts. Soup bowls make great serving pieces, as well. Place small quantities of food items outside at one time to prevent spoilage from heat. Try putting "shooter-style" desserts into votive candleholders and store in the refrigerator until ready to serve. The smaller size is a great presentation and just enough for most people.

5) *Relax and have fun!*

Once you've done all the preparation and planning, it's important to remember to enjoy the fruits of your labor. Kick back and catch up with your friends and family, and enjoy the day.

— *Contributed by Marna Friedman, professional organizer, member of the National Association of Professional Organizers, and author of Eventually Perfect.*

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