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June 202

## **Green Entertaining**



SUMMER! We do everything with other people in Summer. Below are a few ways you can make your Summer events a little "greener".

#### Ways to Have Green Entertaining

**Ditch the disposable party ware:** Try a "mix and match" or "bring your own" approach for dishes, cups, and utensils. It'll add some fun variety and give everyone the chance to participate. Maybe after the event, have a plate swap. If you decide to provide everything, invest in shatterproof, reusable items.

**Set up a dish washing station:** When your guests finish eating, they can wash (or at least rinse) off their plates and utensils and set them aside for the trip home. That might help with insects as well.

Party Favor Utensils: What about bamboo sporks or small travel sets? They make great gifts or can be saved for other events. And you can get them in fun colors!

**Host outside to save on energy use:** If you're able, go outside. Take advantage of shade trees and cooler evenings to save on AC and lighting.

**Make Shift Lighting:** Be creative about lighting an outdoor evening event. Try Mason jars with LED light strings or candles. Or string up some white holiday lights - they're not just for Christmas.

Reuse Decorations: If you buy decorations each year, this year, try to think of things you can save and reuse. It might cost a little more, but you'll save next year. Or - ask your guests to dress in theme colors. For July 4th - Red, White and Blue! Let your guests be the decorations.

**Kid Creative:** Get the kids involved. Ask them what they would use for decorations. Let them choose their own plates and cups to use. Look at a family event from their view and see what fun you can create.

**Use Large Water Containers:** Instead of individual bottles of water, use large pitchers guests can use to refill their cups or glasses. Ask guests to bring their own glasses or cups.

Other Drinks: Instead of individual juices or sodas, use large glass pitchers. Make a large batch of lemonade or tea. You can get Mason jars with handles to use as glasses. Chill the jars ahead of time. Not much is better than good cold lemonade in a glass jar!

**Leftovers Go Home:** Don't throw food away if you don't have to. Be ready to send leftovers home with your guests. If they brought their own plates and cups, use those. If not, have reusable containers ready.

**Recycle Location:** If you must use things such as plastic water bottles, have a well defined location and container for guests to dispose of them.

Remember Insects! A green way to rid your outdoor gathering of insects is to have insect repellent plants around. There are several herbs good for this and make great small decorations on tables. And they add a nice smell to the air..

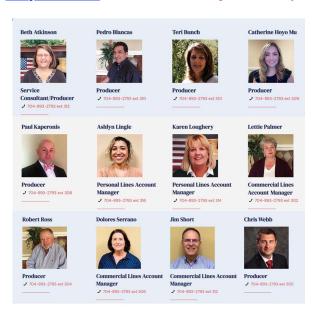
### National Hot Dog Day - Is It a Sandwich or Not?



National Hot Dog Day in July celebrates a summertime staple on a bun. Enjoy one piping hot and add some relish and mustard to go! One thing we want to know – is it a sandwich or not?

Source: national day calendar.com/national-hot-dog-day-third-wednesday-in-july/

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