

Having a party?

You could be left with more than a mess the next morning! Know what you're in for! You could be in for more legal responsibility than you are aware of!

As the Host:

- You can be held responsible for injuries or damages that occur as a result of the alcohol you provide
- You are responsible for what happens to guests when they are in your home or on your property
- You are also responsible for your guests at other functions you organize, like weddings, street parties and company parties
- You are responsible for the safety and behavior of your guests until they are sober, not just until they leave your party or function.
- More and more, courts are placing legal responsibility on people who serve alcohol or host events where guests are drinking.
- If you plan ahead, you can lower both your risk and your guests' risks of having problems.

10 Tips To Reduce Your Risk And Make Your Party Even Better

- Don't plan physical activities, like swimming, skiing, snowmobiling and skating when you serve alcohol. People are more prone to accidents when they've been drinking.
- Have low-alcohol and alcohol-free cocktails and drinks available too. How about a non-alcoholic punch?
- Serve snacks! It is better to eat while drinking than to drink on an empty stomach. Try veggies, cheeses and light dips- they're great and don't make your guests thirsty, as salty, sweet or greasy food do.
- Be prepared for overnight guests. Get those blankets and sleeping bags ready.
- Mix drinks yourself instead of having an open bar. Avoid doubles. Guests usually drink more when they serve themselves.
- Plan to deal with guests who drink too much. Ask someone to be prepared to help you before the party gets rolling.
- Find out how guests will be going home from your party. Be prepared to take away car keys. Know your designated drivers. Have cash and phone numbers ready for taxis.
- Stop serving alcohol a few hours before the party is over. Bring out more alcohol-free drinks and food.
- Plan ahead so that it's easy to try some of these tips. If a legal problem arises, having tried these tips may help.

AND THE #1 PARTY TIP IS.... Don't drink too much yourself! You can stay on top of potential problems when you can think clearly and act quickly!

Remember...

Friends don't let friends drive drunk!

Some useful links

Arrive Alive
CAMH: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Having a Party
MADD
LCBO Mocktail recipes
Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse
Virtual Party

