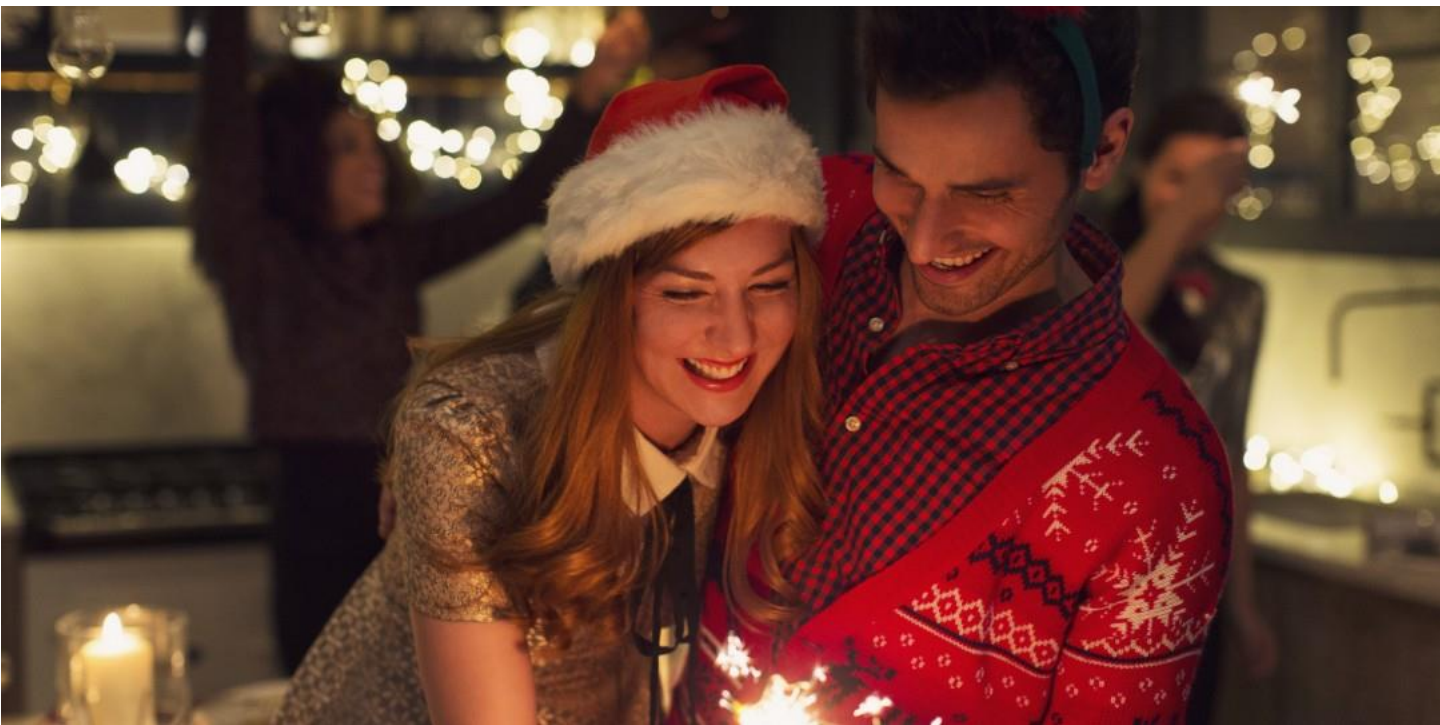


Fun Holiday Party Ideas For Hosting

By: Christopher Hunt

How To Throw The Best Holiday Party Your Friends Have Ever Been To



Hosting a party for the holiday sounds great. In theory. If done right, you are a king, a man beyond reproach. You sir, have provided a service to both friends and family and you may not know it yet, but you will be lauded for your efforts for months to come. But if you fail, you are a scampering madman, running back and forth through your home in a constant panic, fielding questions that you have no answers to. You will have no fun on this night. And it's likely that your guest will not either.

But that will not be this night. We connected with experts in hosting, parties, image and etiquette to make sure you do this the right way. It's time to learn how to be a real host. Not just the guy that opens the door, demands people take off their shoes and put the beer "over there."

Decorating

Easily this could be the part that we guys forget about. But if you really want to step your game up to hosting this holiday season, the decor is the most obvious way to level up. Take these tips from Tori Toth, home stager, lifestyle expert and author of *Feel at Home: Secrets For A Quick and Easy Sell*.

White on White

Dare to embrace winter white by using all white decor this holiday season. The trick to using one main color in a decor scheme is to vary the tone, texture, pattern and height of the items being used in a room to create complex personality in one cohesive look.

Play Up Nature

Strategically accessorize an entryway with a seasonal arrangement that brings the outside in. Use birch, evergreens, twigs or winterberries to welcome guests into your home and make an easy transition from the outside. A design that utilizes nature or organic elements can instantly bring life into a dull space.

Mixed Metals

Bring in a few metallic accessories in finishes like gold, copper and silver to add that finishing touch to a room's vignette. Just like adding a statement necklace with your favorite outfit, metallic accessories can attract the eye, so place some bling on a mantle, bar cart or as a dining room centerpiece to lure guests over.

Light Up The Holidays

Darkness quickly approaches on cold winter nights, so it's important to set the mood with lighting. Create an elegant statement outside by decorating landscaping in white string lights or choose a colored flood light to highlight your home's exterior. Inside turn on chandeliers, table lamps, candles and spark those fireplaces to create a cozy space for lingering guests.

Faux Fur Accessories

This hot interior design trend is not only luxurious, but inviting. Although faux fur is cozy use it sparingly in a room. One or two pieces — like a throw, pillow or rug — is all you need to dress up a sophisticated space. This is one accessory that guests will want to wrap themselves in.