

Greening your backyard barbecue

Warm summer evenings are upon us and what better way to enjoy the outdoors than to throw a get-together with friends and family in your backyard oasis. You can green your backyard barbecues this summer and still host with flair by following these tips:

Choose to Reuse

Rather than disposable dinnerware and utensils, opt for your regular, reusable dishes. Or go with an unbreakable set that you can use at your outdoor parties for years to come. The Melamine dinnerware set from Sears is perfect for casual outdoor dining.

Buy Local

When choosing your dinner menu, pick ingredients that you can get at your local farmers market—think simple and fresh. At a farmers' market, most local produce has been picked within 24 hours. It comes to you ripe, fresh, and with its full flavour, unlike supermarket food that may have been picked weeks or months before.

Make a Splash

Avoid serving beverages in plastic bottles and cans. Iced water or homemade lemonade can be served in a jug with reusable glassware and is a fresh alternative your guests will appreciate. Add some extra splash to your party by letting your guests make their own homemade soda or spar-



klung water in reusable bottles with an at-home system like SodaStream available in Sears stores.

Mind the Mess

It can be difficult to be completely waste free so be sure your guests have access to containers for their recyclables. Plus you can toss leftover food scraps into a backyard compost—your garden will love you for it later.

Give your Party the Green Light

Enhance the evening's ambiance by placing solar lights around your yard or patio so that as the sun begins to set you won't be left in the dark.

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How to choose a greener mower

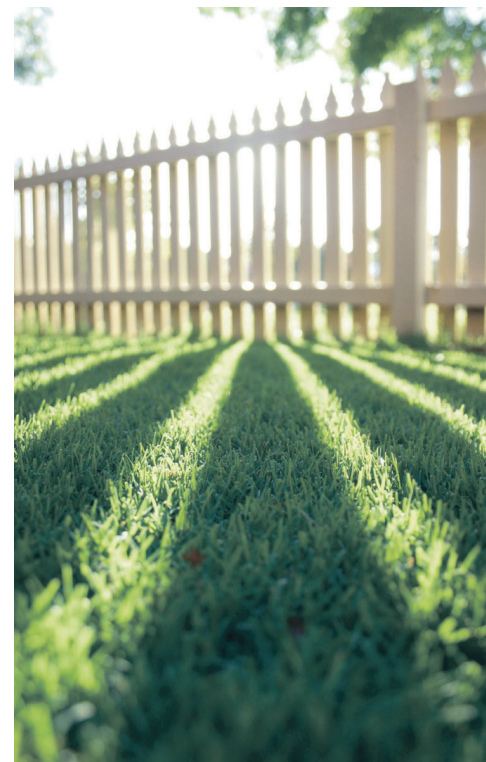
You might not realize it, but that old gas mower sitting in your shed is a major contributor to summertime air pollution. In fact, running an old gas-powered lawn mower for one hour can produce as much air pollution as driving a new car 550 kilometres.

There are green choices when it comes to lawn care. What you use comes down to the size of your yard and personal preference.

The greenest choice by far is a reel mower powered by you. Ideal for small, flat lawns, these simple and quiet mowers release no pollution into the atmosphere. You'll get your exercise and achieve top notch results with a durable Craftsman reel mower from Sears.

For up to half an acre, an electric or battery powered mower is a great green choice. Compared to a gas mower, they are cleaner and quieter plus without the need for fuel, tune-ups and oil filters, you will spend less money on maintenance.

Sears offers both corded and cordless options. With a cordless electric mower you can move around the yard with ease but running time is limited to the chargeable battery power. The corded electric mower has unlimited running time but will only reach as far as the extension cord will allow. Again, the choice depends on preference and yard size.



Gas powered mowers are ideal for large lawns, but they release pollutants into the atmosphere. For a greener gas mower choose the Craftsman 22" front-wheel lawn mower with the Eco Plus technology engine. These mowers emit 38% less exhaust emissions than current Canadian standards.

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