

Ensure your guests arrive home safely

This may be the season to be jolly, but it's easy to keep your holiday party both safe and fun by following a few simple tips on responsible hosting.

As host of a party, you can be held legally responsible for injuries or damages that occur as a result of the alcohol you serve.

If you plan ahead, you can lower the degree of risk to yourself, and to your guests and still have a great time.

For advice on how to organize a safer gathering and reduce your risk of liability, the Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) and the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) have developed a brochure called *Having a Party?*

The brochure lists 10 tips for responsible hosting including: mix drinks yourself instead of having an open bar; serve food with the drinks; and find out how guests will be returning home from your party.

"Everyone likes a good holiday party, but it's important to remember that a good party is also a safer party," says Suzy Rosenstein, a product designer with the ARF's Product Development and Marketing Department. "By following certain tips, a host can ensure

~Side effects can be more than a hangover~

that guests have a fun time and arrive home safely."

The most important tip is to keep everything in moderation: while drinking small quantities of alcohol can have some health benefits for some people, including a lower risk of heart disease, drinking too much can result in some unpleasant side effects. If a guest at your party drinks too much and gets behind the wheel of a car, the unpleasant side effects can include more than just a bad hangover the next day. Designating a sober server, offering appropriate snacks and making low-alcohol and alcohol-free refreshments available to guests are all important details to consider," says Michael Fagan, manager, Vintages/Product Knowledge at the LCBO. It's particularly important for the host to avoid drinking too much, Fagan adds.

"Staying sober so you can react quickly and appropriately to any situation is the key to responsible hosting. Being responsible will enhance, not detract, from a great party," he explains.

The *Having a Party?* brochure is available free of charge at all LCBO stores or at the following Internet addresses: <http://sano.arf.org/partytip.htm>. For more information about alcohol or drugs, call INFO-ARF toll free at 1-800-463-6273 or in Toronto at (416) 595-6111.

Responsible Hosting Tips - The Top 10 List

Anyone hosting a party where alcohol is being served could be left with more than a mess to deal with if they haven't planned ahead.

Why take chances? Reduce the risks, increase the good times and help ensure your guests arrive home safely by following these 10 tips for responsible hosting.

10. Don't plan physical activities when you serve alcohol. People are more prone to accidents after drinking.

9. Have low-alcohol and alcohol-

free drinks available.

8. Serve snacks. Try veggies, cheeses and light dips - they're great and don't make your guests thirsty.

7. Be prepared for overnight guests.

6. Mix drinks yourself or designate a bartender. Guests usually drink more when they serve themselves.

5. Have a plan to deal with guests who drink too much. Someone reliable should help you

keep things under control.

4. Find out how your guests will be getting home. Be prepared to take away car keys. Know your designated drivers. Have cash and phone numbers ready for taxis.

3. Stop serving alcohol well before the party is over. Bring out more alcohol-free drinks and food.

2. Plan ahead so that it's easy to follow this advice. If a legal problem arises, having used

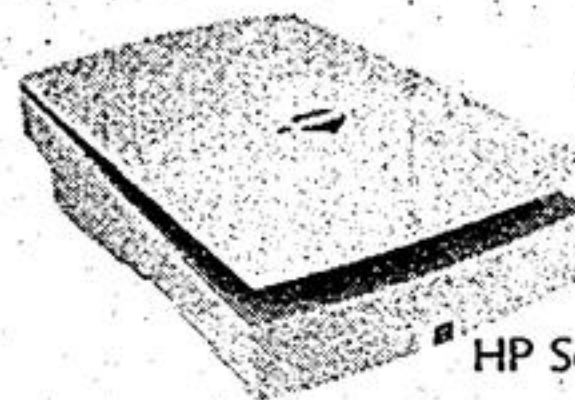
these tips may help.

And the number one party tip is...

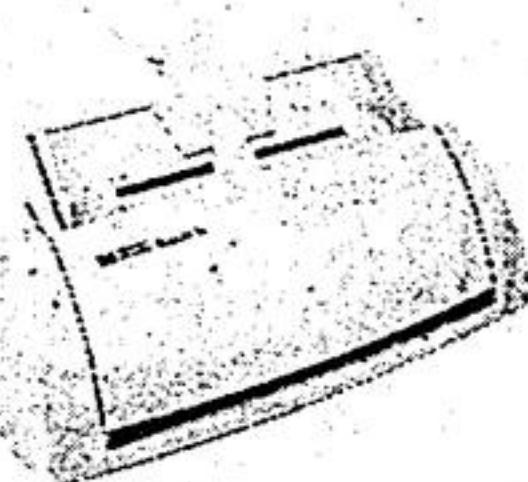
1. Don't drink too much yourself. As the host, you can stay on top of potential problems better when you can think clearly and act quickly.

These responsible hosting tips are taken from the *Having a Party?* brochure, co-produced by the Addiction Research Foundation and the LCBO.

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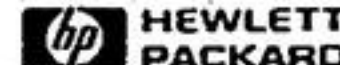
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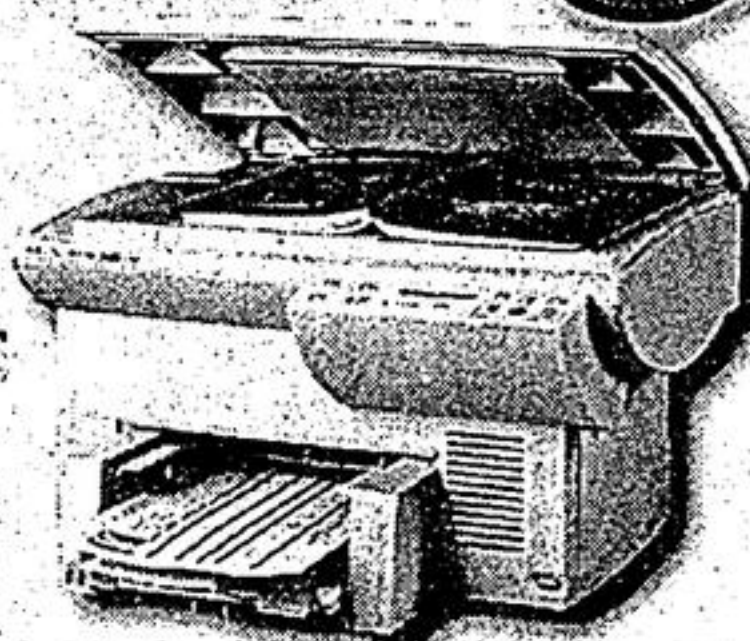
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