

# Try Mai Tais for a tropical patio experience

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## Mai Tai

- 1 oz light rum
- 1/2 oz Triple Sec
- 1 oz lime juice or lemon juice
- 1 oz pineapple juice
- 2 oz orange juice

Dash of grenadine

Shake all ingredients into an old-fashioned glass filled with crushed ice; top with 1/2 oz of dark rum.

## Tie Me To The Bedpost

- 1/2 oz Malibu rum
- 1/2 oz Midori Melon liqueur
- 1/2 oz sweet and sour mix

1/2 oz lemon vodka

Ice cubes

Shake ingredients on ice. Strain into sour glass.

## Strawberry Daiquiri

- 2 oz white rum
- 1/2 oz Cointreau
- 6 ripe strawberries

1 oz lime juice

1/2 tsp superfine sugar

Blend all ingredients until strawberries are ground. Add two cups of ice and blend until smooth. Pour into a collins glass. Serve with a straw.

## Florida Tropical Storm

- 12 Oz. of V8 Strawberry-Kiwi fruit drink

1 Oz. Captain Morgan Spiced Rum

1 Oz. Bacardi Limon

1 Oz. DeKuyper Peach Schnapps

Place in a blender with a fist full of ice and blend until thick. Serve in two frozen mugs. Sprinkle a dash of grenadine over the top. Garnish with a large strawberry and a slice of kiwi fruit.

Courtesy of dollarman.com

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## Themed bars becoming popular

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You can buy timber sealers or brighteners for the deck or if you do not have a deck and want a simple solution, try tiles. Teak tiles, made from hard, durable timber, won't crack because they have oil in them, Mr. Korpikoski says.

These tiles can go on a concrete patio or wooden deck.

"It's like Lego. You interlock them together, it's easy to install," he says.

Of course, what people are most likely to remember about a patio party is the food.

While hotdogs and hamburgers are easy to make, many people are staying away from these selections because they think of it as children's food, says Paul Spano, owner of Seventh Heaven Fine Catering and Special Event Production in Toronto.

New York sirloin steaks, chicken breasts and fish, such as salmon, are the foods of choice. At one party Mr. Spano catered

guests had barbecued roast.

You can buy lazy susans for patio tables, marinade injectors for meat that keep mess to a minimum and you can rent cup-holding plastic clips. These attach to plates so guests can hold their plates, eat and carry their drinks at the same time.

For bigger functions, some hosts hire a professional bartender, who will bring items such as juice and glassware while the hosts provide alcohol.

Picking a theme for the bar has become popular, too, such as having a martini bar if it is an evening party or serving tropical drinks, Mr. Spano says.

But one detail is commonly missed by hosts. Few remember to have a back-up plan in case it rains.

People often try to rent tents at the last minute, says Lisa Gervais, assistant manager of Markham-based Enchanted Events, a company that provides equipment for parties.

"A few weeks ago, when it was

raining on a Saturday, the phone started ringing off the hook. I think I had 12 requests for tents."

Her company charges at least \$400 per day for tents to hold four tables of eight to 10 people.

Enchanted Events has started supplying chair covers for people who don't want to move their plastic chairs, inside because they believe it will look tacky.

So, make sure you have cleared a space for guests indoors, just in case, or choose a park where you can hold a party under a permanent roof, Mr. Spano says.

He has one last piece of advice about preparing a patio party: provide plenty of ice.

"We've seen a lot of people run their garden hose over drinks because they have run out of ice."

Salco Patio & Leisure can be reached at 905-475-8353. Enchanted Events can be reached at 905-470-1300. The Patio Exchange can be reached at 905-642-8800.

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