

# Celebrate Sustainably

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**Email invitations or use social media to invite guests.** For printed invitations, make your own or buy ones printed on recycled paper. Encourage RSVPs to help buy the right amount of food and materials to limit waste.

**Keep decorations minimal or look for things that can be used again.** Old glass jars with flowers make beautiful centerpieces and holiday string lights make any party festive. Use a hole-punch to make your own compostable confetti from flowers or leaves.

**Purchase a white cotton fabric table cover and provide fabric markers for guests to sign.** Use it every year to create and provide a lifetime of memories.

**Opt for reusable cups, plates, napkins, and silverware.** Don't have enough of your own? Borrow from family and friends or check out thrift stores and flea markets. Another creative option: ask guests to bring their own supplies.

**Buy food with limited plastic packaging.** Purchase locally sourced produce and make your own food and desserts to cut down on packaging waste.

**Make your own lemonade or punch and serve it in glass pitchers or a punch bowl.** Serve water flavored with lemons, oranges, limes, or cucumbers in a drink dispenser instead of single-use plastic water bottles. Remember to compost the fruit afterwards or freeze to use in smoothies.

**Pack leftovers in reusable containers and have a plan to use them after the party** or send leftovers home with your guests. Use tools like Save the Food's Guestimator ([savethefood.com/guestimator](http://savethefood.com/guestimator)) to plan for the right amount of food and to reduce food waste.

**Consider useful party favors or prizes.** Small jars of locally made honey or jams, reusable water bottles or straws, small plants, and glass jars filled with candy are good options. For a child's party, consider a small craft as an activity that can double as a party favor.

**Wrap gifts in newspaper, fabric, or place in gifts bags that can be reused.** Make your own gifts or buy from a local artists or business. Gift experiences instead of items.

**Provide clearly labeled bins (landfill, recycling, and compost) so that your guests can place items directly where they belong,** saving you time after the party. Consider asking someone to monitor the bins to make sure items are placed correctly or sort waste after the party.

