



Top Tips for Responsible Hosting

In the spirit of the holidays, we want to help you have a fun, safe, and festive celebration. So, let's start with the planning and prepping of your home, the menu and decorations. You can always contact your broker with any hosting liability questions (or an invite to your holiday fiesta).



Keep an eye on the oven: While you're busy answering the door and chatting with your guests, it's crucial that you don't leave your stovetop or oven unattended. Make sure to keep the area surrounding the oven clear as well, to avoid potential fires.



Watch for other fire hazards: Candles might add a cozy vibe to the room but placing them in an area where they can get knocked over is risky. Want to have a fireplace crackling in the background? Make sure to use a screen when it's burning and remove anything flammable from the surrounding area.



Childproof your home: If you're planning on having some younger guests over, ensure your home is clear of anything that could potentially cause harm to a child. Store away matches and small breakable objects, keep knives and other sharp utensils out of reach, cover electrical outlets, and make sure any ornaments that could be a choking hazard are moved to the top of the tree.



Keep a clear entryway: There's nothing like some snow to really put you in a festive mood. Keep spirits bright by shoveling and salting your driveway or entryway to ensure your guests don't stumble, slip and injure themselves. Moreover, ensure that the path to your home is well-lit and clear of any tripping hazards or ice.



Monitor overconsumption of alcohol: As a host, it's up to you to monitor how much alcohol is being served. Serving guests yourself rather than setting up an open bar is a great way to do this. As the night winds down, serve coffee, tea or water instead of alcohol an hour before their expected departure time.



Offer alcohol-free options: Designated drivers and non-drinkers will thank you for it.



Serve plenty of food: Satisfy hunger and dilute the effects of alcohol by ensuring there is always food available—just avoid salty snacks as it will make your guests thirstier.



Stay sober: As the host, it's your duty to ensure your guests are safe. Staying sober will help you stay alert and aware of your surroundings and of how much your guests have been drinking.



Offer end-of-night alternatives: Should your guests go overboard with the holiday spirit, be prepared to offer them transportation alternatives, like a taxi to get home, or invite them to stay for the night.