

Check out these tips to reduce your single-use plastic waste at your next big bash.

BY ELLA SCHWARTZ

### 1

## BEFORE THE PARTY

- Include a note on the invitation announcing that your party will be plastic free.
- Fill your reusable bags with party snacks like popcorn, candies, and pretzels from the bulk section of the grocery store.
- Instead of balloons, plastic banners, and plastic streamers,



decorate the space with homemade items: tissue paper pom-poms, signs made of scrap-fabric letters, and scrap-paper garland chains.

- Use a hole-punch device to cut out circles of colorful paper to use instead of glitter.
- If it's your birthday and you're expecting presents, consider asking your family and friends for plastic-free gifts like homemade treats, donations to charities, print-at-home gift cards, or tickets to something you could do together like a day at the zoo or a game of bowling.

### 2

## AT THE PARTY

- Serve the food on ceramic plates, use metal utensils, and pour drinks in washable cups instead of using plastic utensils.
- Offer finger food like veggies, cheese sticks, cake bites, and sandwiches—no plates necessary!
- Put chopped fruit into a large container of ice-cold water or lemonade for a fancy, plastic-free beverage.
- Skip the plastic tablecloth and instead use old newspaper or scrap paper. **Bonus:** Your friends can decorate the table cover at the party!

### 3

## AFTER THE PARTY

- If you want to give your friends goodie bags, wrap the swag in paper bags or reusable totes instead of plastic gift bags.
- Pack the bag with plastic-free goodies like crayons, colored pencils, books, and sidewalk chalk instead of plastic knick-knacks.
- Don't give out plastic-wrapped candy as party favors. Instead, offer your guests homemade cookies or cupcakes on their way out.



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