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# How to turn that summer get-together green

June 22, 2009

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SPECIAL TO YOURHOME.CA

Now that the warmer weather has arrived, many of us will be entertaining friends and family outdoors. Here are some tips to help make your summer entertaining both environmentally responsible and stylish:

SHUTTERSTOCK

With a little planning, your summer get together can be both eco-friendly and stylish.

### The table:

- Avoid using plastic disposable cutlery and plates. Try using your indoor cutlery, or glam it up and use your inherited sterling silver and best dishes. If you don't have enough of one set, mix and match for an eclectic look.

- Try bamboo dishes — bamboo is inexpensive and from renewable resources. The dishes are reusable and outdoor friendly. You can also rent cutlery and plates.

- If hiring a caterer, using your own dishes and serving platters cuts out another level of disposables.

- Use your own tablecloths or, if you don't own any, buy vintage at a consignment shop/thrift store/flea market instead of buying new. Vintage linens can be purchased for next to nothing and will lend elegance to an outdoor meal. Vintage napkins or repurposed dollar store colourful hankies are perfect for outdoors. If you can't find vintage napkins, cut a tablecloth into napkin-size squares and hem or use with rough edges for a more rustic look.

- Be creative when decorating the table — branches in a tall vase can be striking or try placing small terra cotta pots of herbs at each place setting.

- Burn beeswax or soy candles, or better yet, use LED candles, which are battery operated and reusable.

### Menu

- As you begin to plan your dinner party menu, look for ingredients that are currently in season. This means you won't need to purchase imported goods that travel thousands of miles to get to your table.

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