

Decorating Chit Chat

One Pretty House Interiors

Issue: #7 Vol. 1

www.1prettyhouse.com

July, 2009

3rd Saturdays
at
**The
Great Indoors**

complimentary
decorating seminars

**Beyond
the
Paper
Plate Picnic:
Backyard
Entertaining**

Saturday
July 18th at 1pm
visit
www.1prettyhouse.com
to register

OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING

Summer is officially here and with that the time for outdoor entertaining.

It wasn't so long ago that outdoor entertaining meant a picnic in the park with paper plates, plastic utensils and a drink cooler, or a thrown together menu of store bought potato salad and burgers served on unsteady plates while sitting on mismatched patio chairs.

Thanks to today's growing trend of outdoor kitchens, outdoors spaces have evolved into extensions of our homes with all the comforts of interior rooms, and outdoor entertaining has become more sophisticated. Now the deck or patio is adorned with a beautifully set table and linens, china, silverware and glassware are standard fare.

But don't let this new venue intimidate! Even a spontaneous ultra casual gathering can be extra special with a little bit of planning ahead. With a few tried and true suggestions, your outdoor soirees will run smoothly from set-up to clean-up. After all, guests shouldn't be the only ones who get to relax and enjoy the festivities!

Lay Out the Basic Space: Planning the space before your event is key. A simple get together with friends calls for a table large enough to accommodate everyone and perhaps a console or side table for serving. If your indoor dining table is large enough, why not bring it out for a little alfresco dining?

For several guests, decide on several small tables, eating while standing or while seated in the nearest lawn chair. Use smaller sized outdoor rugs to distinguish seating areas on the deck, patio or under shade trees for relaxed dining. A buffet table for entrees, salads, side dishes and condiments as well as iced down drinks in waterproof containers ranging from galvanized tubs and colorful enamel buckets to terra cotta pots will make food and drink easily accessible, organized and beautiful.

Just as you would indoors, be certain there are sufficient cushions to soften both dining and outdoor occasional chairs. There are plenty of styles and colors to choose from in both indoor and outdoor fabrics.



Summer Special

Prebook a
Two-Room
Redesign
\$650.00
(a \$750.00 value)

valid
June 1st - July 31st

Dress the Table(s): Your outdoor table setting can be as sophisticated as an elegant dinner party or as simple as an everyday meal. Either way set the table as you would your indoor dining room. Use summer linens in bright colors for a fun get together or casual buffet and more subtle sophisticated hues for intimate gatherings. Save the paper for cocktail napkins only. Add color to a set table, mix and match china pieces or glassware in colorful hues. For buffets or larger parties, stack plates in varying heights to add interest and dimension and arrange silverware in inviting "take-one" containers like planters, cachepots or glassware.

Centerpieces can be as simple as small galvanized containers of Gerbera daisies or impatiens framed with greenery or bowls of whole summer fruits. Let your dinnerware - linen, china and glassware be your guide as to colors and textures for your centerpieces.

Light Up the Night: Strands of small clear lights add sparkle to your outdoor space and can be woven through trees, shrubs and fences. There are a variety of shapes and styles - pick ones that add just the right amount of light and ambience for a whimsical, romantic feel. Candles are of course the most common source of outdoor table and party lighting. Tea lights can be scattered on dining tables, buffet tables and the bar area or placed as groupings on tabletops in small jars or holders. Hurricane lanterns are another great option and can be used with candles to add a little reflective shimmer to any table.

Summer nights are a wonderful opportunity to draw family and friends together. A little planning and some simple, thoughtful touches will transform any gathering into a stress free, yet elegant and memorable event.



STAGING 911



De-clutter & De-personalize

Where "less is more" meets neutral decor

1. **The 50% Rule.** Eliminate clutter in your house by *at least* half. Even a house with ample storage can appear lacking if closets are unorganized or overstuffed.
2. **Executive Neutral.** It's a proven fact - neutral colors sell. Potential buyers need to imagine themselves living in the space. High-quality neutrals attract a wider array of buyers.
3. **De-personalize.** Allow potential buyers to make an emotional connection with the property by taking away unnecessary distractions or objects they won't be able to identify with. Take the focus away from the contents within and let the house take center stage.

One Pretty House Interiors is a boutique interior design firm specializing in one day redesign and real estate staging for residents in Maryland, Washington DC and Northern Virginia. Our goal is to transform the space you live in to rooms you love to come home to. Let us help you *fall in love one room at a time.*

One Pretty House Interiors
p 301-767-9888
e info@1prettyhouse.com
www.1prettyhouse.com
Bethesda, Maryland

