Tips for Parties

If you decide to host parties, we encourage it to be in a responsible, safe, and respectful manner to your guests, your neighbors, and the community at large.

- Make the first time you meet your neighbors a positive experience, just introduce yourself and let them know where you live. Don’t tell them that you are going to have a party the first time you meet. But do let them know in advance about any parties you do plan to host.
- Get to know your neighbors so that you know if they work early hours on the weekends as many students and homeowners do. Get their phone numbers and give them yours so they can call you instead of the police if your party gets too loud.
- The noisy and unruly assembly ordinance takes effect at 10:00 PM and any party that can be heard from the street can be broken up and ticketed by the police from ten at night until eight in the morning.
- Know who is coming to your party for the sake of your safety and your pocket book. Many thieves come to parties to see what houses are worth breaking into later on. It is also illegal to sell alcohol without a liquor license, violation of which can come with a $3000 fine or one year in jail.
- If you are hosting a party and people you don’t know show up and their presence makes you uncomfortable, do not be afraid to call the police. If you are hosting the party and are actively trying to keep it safe and quiet, the police will most likely not issue you a ticket.
- Never let anyone drive home drunk from your party, ever.

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Join our student group, Student Neighborhood Organizers, at www.sua.umn.edu/groups/. Find us on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com and search for Student Neighborhood Liaisons.

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While planning a party:

1. Check your lease to make sure that if the police do come and issue tickets, you will not be evicted.
2. Let neighbors know about the party a day or two ahead of time so that they can call you if the party gets noisy or unruly.
3. Avoid serving glass bottles. They are easily broken and difficult to clean.
4. Serve closed containers so that date rape drugs cannot be slipped into someone’s drink. If someone is drugged at your party, the charges can come down on the party host no matter who did it.
5. Designate at least one person to be sober at the party who is in charge of answering the phone, dealing with unruly or drunk guests as well as the police, if they show up.
6. Don’t let anyone leave with an open beverage. The police have full right to ticket anyone in public with an open container and it is a really good sign of an unruly assembly.
7. Don’t let any of your guests use the outside of your or your neighbors’ house as a toilet.

Remember!
There is a big difference between partying and being an annoyance. If you decide to have a party, we encourage you to do it in a manner that is responsible and respectful of the neighborhood and community at large.

If the police come to break up the party:

1. Cooperate. Although they do not have the legal right to enter the residence without a warrant, they can enter if they are provoked or if they believe there is illegal activity.
2. Answer all questions truthfully. The last thing you want on your permanent record is an arrest for obstruction of justice for lying to a police officer about a party you had in college.
3. If you or your guests are issued a ticket or arrested, seek legal representation immediately if needed. If you are a student at the U, these services are provided free or at a minimal charge by the University Student Legal Services. 612.624.1001 usls@umn.edu

After the party is over:

1. Clean up the litter in front of your house and on the sidewalks as soon as possible. If any litter from your party is on your neighbors’ property, clean that up also.
2. Talk with your neighbors within a couple of days after your party to make sure there were no problems or resolve any issues they may have had. Ask for feedback and always follow up with them!