**How to host a respectful party in Bellingham**

You've set up your new place and are ready to invite people over. Whatever the size of your gathering, there are a few things you can do to make it enjoyable for you and those around you.

### Talk to Your Neighbors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>what</th>
<th>who</th>
<th>when</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tell your neighbors that you plan to have gatherings at your house.</td>
<td>Tell them who to contact if they have issues with your party. It is better they call you first, not the police.</td>
<td>Give your neighbors a heads up before the scheduled party!</td>
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*Most likely, you’ll have a great get-together, but you should be prepared to address the “what if’s.”*

### Great Tips for Hosting

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<th>Plan Ahead</th>
<th>Be Considerate</th>
<th>Snacks</th>
<th>No Fees</th>
<th>No Minors</th>
<th>Cooperate with Your Neighbors &amp; the Police</th>
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<td>Make a plan for when guests or the party get out of hand. Before the party, ask someone reliable to help you keep things in line. You can always call 911 if the party gets out of control or if you are concerned about a person’s safety.</td>
<td>Don’t block driveways or sidewalks and don’t leave garbage around your or your neighbor’s property.</td>
<td>Offer water, soda, or other non-alcoholic options. Provide snacks and other food. But remember, food only changes the pace at which alcohol enters your system—it has no effect on how fast alcohol leaves your system.</td>
<td>Don’t charge fees to party guests, this will help prevent possible legal issues!</td>
<td>Don’t serve alcohol to minors. Posting signs on the door that say “21+ Only” won’t prevent you from getting a citation if the police stop by.</td>
<td>If your neighbors call or stop by to tell you the party’s too loud, listen to them and cooperate. Otherwise, they may end up calling the police.</td>
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### Keep the Party Less than 30 People & Indoors at all times

This helps cut down on clean-up time and reduces the amount of noise generated. Walk outside from time to time to check the noise level.

### Call 911 if You Think Someone Has Had Too Much to Drink

**Good Samaritan Law**

Washington’s 911 Overdose Good Samaritan laws state if you think someone’s overdosing or has alcohol poisoning and you seek medical help for the victim, *neither of you will be charged for possessing or using drugs or for minor in possession.*

**Signs of Overdose**

- Any trouble breathing or having convulsions
- Vomiting excessively or vomiting blood
- Unable to stand/walk without help
- Unconscious or unresponsive
- Cold, clammy skin, and/or bluish lips

**Don’t Let Your Guests Drink and Drive**

Call a taxi, arrange for a ride with a sober guest, or invite them to stay over.

**Alternate Bellingham Transportation**

- **WTA Transit**
  - [www.ridewta.com](http://www.ridewta.com)
  - 360.220.4990
- **Bellingham Taxi**
  - 360.220.4990
- **Blue Cab**
  - 360.734.3787
- **Western Shuttle**
  - [www.wwu.edu/transportation](http://www.wwu.edu/transportation)
  - 360.734.9111
- **Sober Rovers**
  - 360.734.9111

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