

# Recycle Bottles & Cans Here



A message from the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission  
of Santa Clara County and your City



# Having a party?

Help your guests recycle bottles and cans.  
Tape this Fun Recycling Sign to a spare container.



## Tips for an Environmentally Friendly Party

Enjoy yourself without spending money on disposable items—  
have fun without creating mountains of waste! Here's how:

### Party Planning Step 1. FOOD & LOCATION

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*Choose a refreshment that uses cloth napkins and reusable dishes.*  
Ask questions! If the restaurant doesn't recycle, choose another place and let both restaurants know why.

*Choose a caterer who will supply reusable dishes and napkins, and will set up for recycling.* If you're having the food supplied, ask the caterer to provide reusable trays that can then be returned or ask to have food presented on your trays/dishes.

*Choose a finger food menu.*  
No forks or plates needed.

### Party Planning Step 2. ELEGANT & EFFICIENT

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*Rent dishes, glassware and linens from a party store.* It will make your party more elegant and eliminate the need to buy and dispose of paper products. Check "Rental Service Stores" or "Party Supplies & Service" in the yellow pages for a place to rent dishes, napkins, and flatware.

*Purchase enough cloth napkins and dishes for the party.* Once bought, they will be useful for years.

*Turn down the heat before your guests arrive.* You'll save energy and your guests will be more comfortable, because the extra bodies will heat the house.

### Party Planning Step 3. GIFTS & WRAPPINGS

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*Ask everyone to be creative in gift-wrapping:* no commercial paper allowed! Cloth (even napkins), old maps, Sunday comics, and other items can have a second life as wrapping paper. Consider awarding a prize for the most clever and waste-free package.

*Consider a no-stuff strategy.*  
Do your friends or employees really need more stuff?  
As an alternative, give museum memberships, restaurant certificates or sporting event tickets.

*If your office still uses disposable cups, a mug can make a fun gift exchange.* Daily use of mugs will noticeably decrease the garbage in your employee lunchroom. Suggest that everyone check their homes for mugs they don't use or shop for "new" mugs at a thrift store.

**For more waste reduction ideas, visit [ReduceWaste.org](http://ReduceWaste.org)**