



## Ten Tips...for being a good HC host

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*Simple suggestions from years of experience*

1. **Clear the way.** Make sure the sidewalk is clear and safe before people arrive (shovel snow). Make sure there is enough room in the entrance, and free hangers for coats, etc. Also make sure people know what to do with their shoes and coats when they come in
2. **Make a welcoming entrance.** It's always nice to come into a home that is clean, warm, and ready for you. Music playing is a nice touch. Make sure people can find the washrooms
3. **Have drinks available.** Have water, coffee, and tea made so people can help themselves as they come in. It helps to have a counter or corner set aside for this
4. **Set up enough seating.** Anticipate the number of people coming and make sure there is enough seating before people arrive. Also have extra seating ready for unexpected guests
5. **Prepare for eating.** If a meal is being served, the host should have dishes, cups and cutlery out and ready beforehand. This allows the host more time to welcome people
6. **Greet everyone.** Go to the door when people arrive so they feel welcome, especially newcomers. It's not very encouraging when you come into a house and no one notices
7. **Think of the Kids.** If possible, a special area for children to be themselves and not worry about what might get wrecked can save a lot of tension - for you and the parents
8. **Decorate.** Prepare your home for special events like birthdays (decorations, etc), and special times like Communion (bread, juice/wine, etc)
9. **Stay engaged.** Refrain from cleaning up and doing dishes etc when other parts of HC are going on. You also need the benefit from engaging in HC (think Mary and Martha)
10. **Stay calm.** Your comfort and joy will be sensed and passed on to the people who come into your home - the same is true of your stress and impatience