

# How to party without getting busted

## Party Smart!

- **There are specific rules and laws on and off campus regarding drinking.** If you decide to drink, it is *your* responsibility to know them. If you decide not to drink, you'll be in the company of about 12,000 other MSU students making the same choice.
- **If you do decide to drink, doing so in moderation is the best way to avoid unwelcome trouble.** Speed of consumption is what trips up most students and it's a good idea to employ a few proven strategies for slowing yourself down. Some of these strategies include: eating before or while drinking, pacing yourself to no more than one alcoholic drink per hour, asking friends to look out for you and to speak up if they see you are drinking too fast, and avoiding drinking games, pre-drinking, and taking shots.
- **Consume alcohol for the right reasons at the right times.** As a general rule, don't drink when you are too angry, too lonely, too hungry, or too tired.
- **Know when to leave the party.** If the party goes too long, gets too loud, or becomes too big, the police (or in the dorms, mentors) are likely to make an appearance. Your best bet is to leave *before* they arrive.
- **Know how you'll get home before you go out.** If walking, make sure you have someone to walk with and if riding, make sure you have a designated driver. There are also 7 licensed cab companies in town that operate 24/7.

## Help your friends Party Smart:

*Partying is first and foremost about being with friends. To make sure it stays that way keep the following in mind:*

- **Never leave a friend alone at a party or bar.** If you started out the night together, end the night together.
- **If you see your friend drinking too much, too fast, help to slow them down.** Bring them a non-alcoholic beverage (water works!), get them something to eat, ask them to help *you* slow down, or get them to do something that takes the focus off of alcohol and helps to slow the speed of consumption (i.e. dance, go for a walk). Your friend will surely appreciate your efforts later, even if they don't right then.
- **If at any time you feel that a friend may be in medical trouble, they probably are.** Specifically, if you are unable to wake them, their skin is pale and/or cold and clammy, or they are breathing too slow (less than 8 breaths per minute or more than 10 seconds between breaths), it is a medical emergency and you need to get help immediately. **Call 911, place your friend on their side, and stay with them until help arrives.** If you are ever in doubt about the condition of a friend, it is better to be safe than sorry - make the call.

## Party like a Spartan!

*The majority of MSU Students know how to Party Smart\*:*

- 56% consume 0-4 drinks when partying.
- 78% stay with the same group of friends when partying to reduce the risk of harm.
- 94% disapprove of pressuring someone to drink more than they want.
- 64% said they would call 911 for a friend who had passed out from drinking.
- 60% consume alcohol 1 time weekly or not at all.
- 74% choose not to drive after drinking even if they've had just one.

\*NCHA 2006, Fall Celebration Survey 2006, Spring Celebration Survey 2005



# How to host a party without getting busted

## Be A Good Neighbor:

*East Lansing is a friendly place! In fact, 9 out of 10 MSU students say they are comfortable saying "Hi" to strangers they pass on the street and 6 out of 10 have helped their neighbors move-in, clean up trash, shovel snow, etc\*. Being thoughtful and considerate when you host a party is just one more example of being a good neighbor.*

- **As a courtesy, let your neighbors know you are having a party.**
- **Remember, noise travels far.** Avoid pointing speakers outside or playing music too loudly inside. Large crowds generate a lot of noise as well.
- **Pick up any trash on your lawn immediately following the party.** Trash is not a welcomed sight for your neighbors (9 out of 10 MSU students disapprove of leaving trash on neighborhood lawns\*). The sooner you pick it up, the better. You'll make your neighbors happy and you'll be able to avoid a \$185 party litter fine.
- **If a neighbor approaches you with concerns about your party, listen to them calmly and accommodate their wishes to the best of your ability.** It is in your best interest to resolve the situation with your neighbor, as opposed to having the police get involved.

## Be A Good Host:

- **Understand the party host is responsible and liable for anything that happens as a result of your party.** It is in your best interest to keep your guests safe and out of trouble. The best way to do this is to help them consume moderately by serving food throughout the night, making sure any alcohol available is clearly labeled (no jungle juice), and having non-alcoholic drinks on hand and accessible to everyone.
- **Don't let anyone under the age of 21 drink at your party.** It places everyone at your party, especially the host, at risk for legal trouble.
- **Help your guests get home safely.** Don't let anyone drive home without a designated driver. For guests who are walking home, make sure they are not traveling alone.
- **Identify one or two people to act as Party Monitors.** Their job is to stay sober, help guests get home safely (be a designated driver, call for taxis), interact calmly with the police and neighbors, and monitor noise levels.
- **Know all of the people attending your party.** This is the best way to avoid thefts, fights, and other similar negative situations. Try introducing yourself to everyone at your party as a way to remove any sense of anonymity that a party-goer might have.

## Know the Law:

*While hosting a party can be a lot of fun, it is not without its risks. Knowing the law will go a long way towards minimizing those risks. We can't cover all of the laws here, so we've highlighted a few of which you should be aware. It is against the law to:*

- **Sell alcoholic beverages or charge money for cups, have a cover charge, a music fee, etc. where alcohol is being served, without a liquor license issued by the state.**
- **Provide or sell alcohol to people under 21.**
- **Have open alcohol in any place open to the public in the City of East Lansing, including the sidewalk or the street.**
- **Have a party that gets too loud, meaning it can be heard from the street or adjacent property.** It is important that you monitor noise. Police are under no obligation to give a warning and fines can range from \$250 to \$1,000. If there are other contributing factors at your party (outdoor drinking games, common source of alcohol, overcrowding, etc.) the severity of the violation and fines will go up.

For more information about living in the East Lansing community, be sure to visit [offcampusliving.msu.edu](http://offcampusliving.msu.edu)