



FOR THE INHABITANTS OF YOUR TOWN

10 tips for a successful party

1. Talk to your neighbours about it

Don't prepare the event all alone. The best way to get people to come to Neighbours Day is to talk to people about it and get your neighbours involved in the preparations. The more people contribute to the preparations, the more people will hear about it by word-of-mouth.

Assign tasks among yourselves, share planning responsibilities and discuss the event. Working together will get you in the party mood!

2. Don't forget to promote it!

Pick up poster cards and leaflets from your town hall and display them in the lobby of your building or in front of your house, on entrance doors or lifts.

Customise the invitations and leaflets with the date, time and place for the get-together.

3. Find the right place

If this is your first event, plan to hold the party in communal areas of the building (courtyard, entrance, lobby, porch, garden, etc) rather than in the apartment of one of the residents. This will be less intimidating for those who don't know many people in the building.

If there is nowhere available inside the building, it is possible to organise the party on the pavement in front of the building or in the street, with prior authorisation from the town hall.

Make back-up plans in case of poor weather.

4. Installation

Plan the materials needed to set up a buffet (trestles and boards, tables) as well as chairs, especially for elderly people.

5. Food and drink

Each to their own taste! Provide alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Cider, punch and sangria give a festive feel. Don't forget to provide finger food too, such as table biscuits, raw vegetables, cold meats, nibbles.

The best possible solution is for everyone to bring an item for the buffet.

6. Don't forget the children, they're invited too!

Children are always appreciative of parties. Don't neglect them in the organisation; provide appropriate food, soft drinks, sweets, balloons, etc.

7. Make efforts to get acquainted

When you're at the party, don't sit alone in the corner. The aim is to get to know your neighbours, so make the first move and introduce yourself. The shier residents will be grateful. If your building or residence is very big, use name tags.

8. Get involved

Don't just watch the party go by! Get involved! Help with the organisation and try to be considerate of others. Try and find solutions for people who may have trouble taking part due to commitments to children, illness or handicap.

9. Create a festive atmosphere

Give a thought to decorations (garlands, flowers, plants) and music. But take care not to disturb those neighbours not attending the party. Today is not the day to upset the neighbours!

10. This is just a start

Neighbours day is just a start, the first step in improving the everyday atmosphere. It may be an opportunity to embark on shared projects, to put an end to anonymity and isolation and to strengthen neighbourly ties.

