

# This Summer's Perfect Porch And Patio Party

Provided by Living Out Loud Inc.

The outdoors is now in. Developing a decor driven by personal style and functional purpose is no longer reserved for just the interior of a home.

Many homeowners are embracing the outdoor living trend and looking to add on to or upgrade their existing decks, landscape their yards, purchase outdoor furniture and accessories, and update their grilling and cooking areas.

With the summer months coming many people want to show off their decks and outdoor living spaces.

## 10 tips for planning and hosting the perfect porch and patio party:

- 1 Use e-vites. Electronic invitations are an inexpensive, convenient and fun way to let your guests know about the party. You can get the word out quicker, too! Visit [www.nationaloutdoorlivingweek.com](http://www.nationaloutdoorlivingweek.com) for free, fun deck party e-vites.
- 2 Create an outdoor space conducive to conversation. Remember the different seating, standing and table options commonly found indoors, and offer the same mix on your porch or patio. Softly textured throw pillows and rugs will make the party much cozier than plastic chairs.
- 3 Tidy up your porch and patio. Remove any debris or dirt and give your outdoor living space a little cleaning. Sometimes an additional coat of paint or stain can be the face lift you need. If you can get this done and out of the way early on, you'll spend more time enjoying your deck than maintaining it.



- 4 Get your lawn and garden in shape. Just as parties indoors flow from the kitchen to other rooms, your deck party guests will likely spill over into the yard, especially if it's a big party.
- 5 Plan ahead for uninvited guests. Stock up on citronella candles or mosquito-repellent yard pellets before your deck party.
- 6 Decorate with style. The deck is the foundation of your outdoor living area, but don't forget to bring your personal style and favorite colors, patterns and fabrics outside. Umbrellas, table linens, seat cushions, lighting, flowerpots and planters make



fabulous decorative additions.

- 7 Serve simple refreshments and set out a few fruit and flower baskets. You'll want to spend your party outside with your guests - not trapped in the kitchen. Look for pre-packaged food and beverages. Finger foods or foods you can throw on the grill without fussing over numerous ingredients are quick and easy too. Visit [www.pricechopper.com](http://www.pricechopper.com)
- 8 Set the mood with lighting. If you're having an open house or get together that will run from daytime into the night, decorate your deck with candles and luminaries. They provide a nice lighting transition without harsh indoor or bug-attracting lights.
- 9 Tune in to your favorite tunes. If you don't have speakers wired outside, a small stereo is perfect. Compact discs or MP3s offer great party or background music.
- 10 Don't limit yourself. Deck parties aren't limited to just the spring and summer months. Depending on the climate in which you live, an outdoor fireplace or heater can warm up an outdoor party in cooler months. Kick off the season with a party, but don't let your deck go completely dormant during the fall and winter.

**"The key to a perfect deck party is creating an outdoor living space based on your personal taste and needs. Either way, make it a point to create a unique, unexpected ambiance in your outdoor living 'room'."**

Living Out Loud Inc. can be your local decorating and design service. Let us assist you with the in-home decorating, entertaining, and special event planning. We specialize in parties and home makeovers. For more information, find us at [livingoutloudinc.com](http://livingoutloudinc.com) or call toll free at (866) 249-8272.