

How to Have a Picnic at Home

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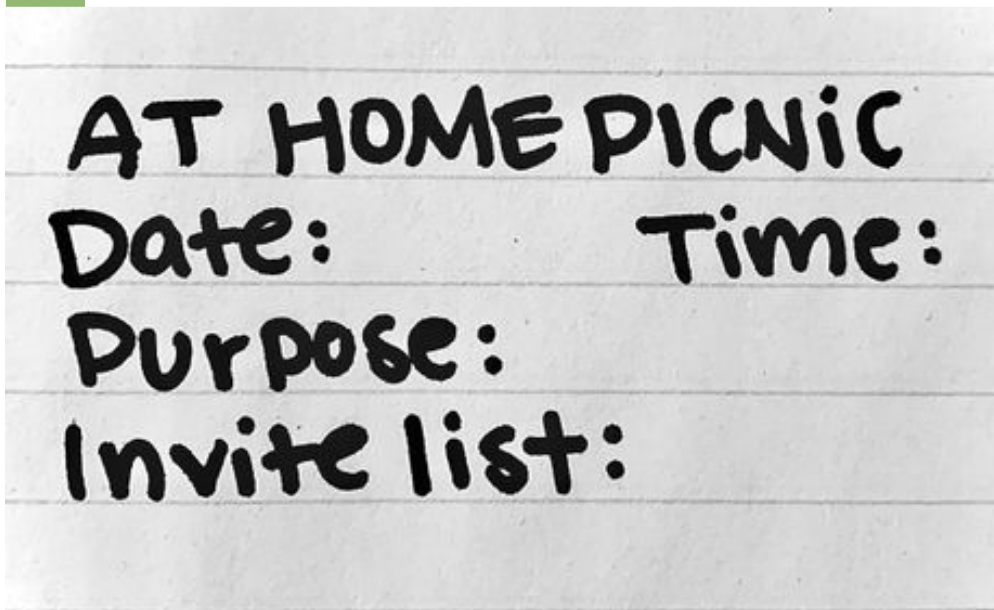
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A traditional picnic refers to a meal eaten outside typically on the ground over a blanket. An at-home picnic differs slightly by referring to any picnic held at home either inside or outside. At-home picnics allow for more flexibility and convenience. They are well-suited for a limited amount of people and are a perfect choice during a pandemic, extreme weather, or just to add a little bit of adventure into your life! Host a successful picnic at home with these easy steps.

Method 1

Method 1 of 2: Indoors



1 **Decide on the occasion.** Are you planning a date night, a get-together with friends, or just enjoying some time spent by yourself? At-home picnics are typically more appropriate for a small crowd of about 1-4 people. Determine the number of people attending, the purpose, and the date and time of the picnic.



2 Choose the location. Pick a location at home with enough ground-space to lay out a blanket and food. Consider the number of people attending and the purpose of the picnic when deciding the location.

- Locations may include but are not limited to bedroom, basement, or living room floors.
- Avoid busy walking areas in your house.



3 Choose the menu. Plan the meal you will be serving during the picnic with your number of guests in mind. Being at home eliminates the traditional worries of transporting the food and keeping it at appropriate temperatures; therefore, anything you can normally eat or cook at home is a viable option. Consider the time needed to prepare the food before guests arrive, and plan to have drinks as well.

- Feel free to choose food options that have to be cooked, refrigerated, frozen, or kept hot.
- Consider delivery or takeout options.



4 Plan activities, games, and decorations (optional). Aside from eating, is there anything else you'd like to do during your picnic? Ideas may include crafts, painting, drawing, board games, card games, or any other activity suitable for your inside location. Think about the decorations in your chosen area, does it align with the mood you want to create? Consider adding elements such as candles, lights, or room décor.

- Activities should align with the number of people attending and your purpose behind hosting the picnic.
- Consider any materials you may need to buy beforehand.



5 Set up and decorate the space. On the day of the picnic, lay a blanket or towel down in your chosen picnic area; this will both replicate a traditional picnic and prevent any damage to carpets, rugs, or hardwood. Decorate the area with your chosen item.

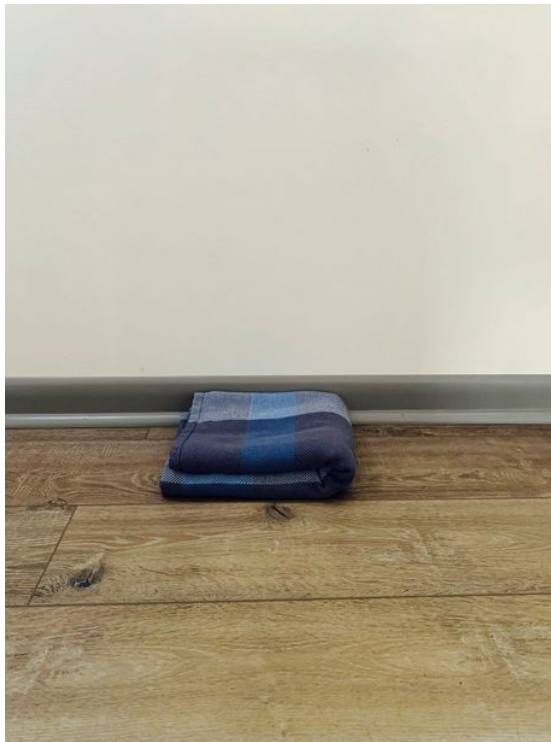
- Use a blanket or towel that can be easily cleaned if there is a spill or one you don't mind getting dirty.
- You may need more than one towel or blanket to cover the area.



6 Set up food in the kitchen or the picnic area. Before guests arrive, decide which method you would like to follow when setting up the food. Method 1: Set out the food and drinks in the kitchen. Have guests fill their plates and grab their own drinks, napkins, and utensils before moving to the picnic area. Method 2: Transport all food, drinks, napkins, utensils, and plates to the picnic area for guests to fill their plates.

- You can also use a mixture of these two techniques by keeping some items in the kitchen while moving others to the picnic area.
- For example, chips can be placed in the picnic area for easy access throughout the meal, but a pan of pasta might be kept in the kitchen while having guests scoop a portion onto their plates before going to the picnic area.

7 Eat and enjoy any planned activities. After your guests have filled their plates, it's time to eat. Activities can be started before or after the meal depending on preference. If food is not prepared before guests arrive, consider starting activities while waiting for the food to be ready.



8 Clean up. Make sure to pack up any leftover food, clean up any drinks and cups, and throw away any trash. Clean up any crumbs and wash the blanket/towel after the picnic if necessary.

Method
2

Method 2 of 2: Outdoors

1 Decide on the occasion. Determine why you want to host the picnic, who you will invite, and when you will have it. Outside at-home picnics may be able to host more people than indoor at-home picnics but consider the weather for the day you choose.



2 Choose your location. Find a location with the number of guests and weather in mind. Avoid hazards by not setting up in common walking areas or near a road.

- Locations may include balconies, yards, or porches.

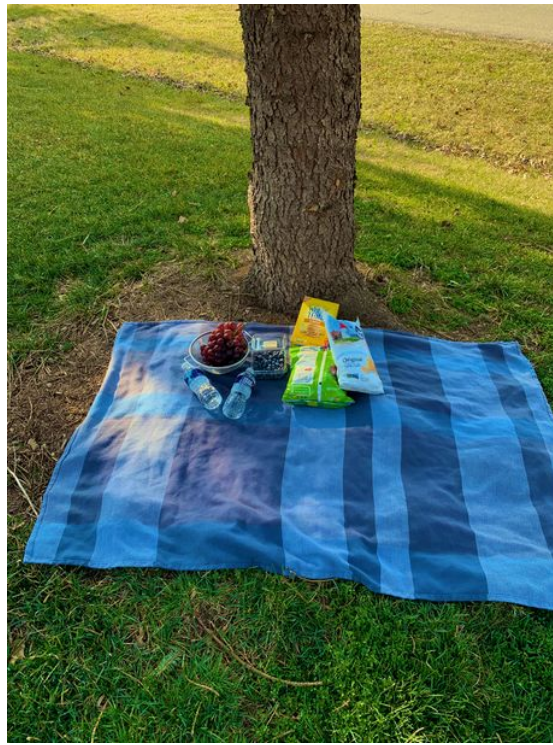
3 Prepare for various weather conditions. Prepare to bring extra necessities such as umbrellas, sunscreen, heavier jackets, or more water to keep hydrated depending on weather conditions. Note whether it will be hot or cold during your picnic and plan accordingly.

4 Choose the menu. Determine what you will serve at the picnic with the number of guests and location in mind. Plan both food and drinks. Since you'll be in your own yard, you'll still have access to your own fridge and kitchen. Feel free to plan an untraditional picnic meal, but consider what you might need to bring outside to eat it. You may want to pack everything in a bag, basket, or cooler for easy transportation.

- Cold drinks may get hot in the sun and hot foods may cool down when outside.



5 Plan activities or games. On top of being able to bring board games, card games, or arts and crafts, you can also plan for outside activities. Outside activities may include frisbee, soccer, or other outside games. Keep in mind the space you have, and plan activities appropriate for the space provided.



6 Set up. On the day of your picnic, lay a blanket or towel down in your chosen picnic area. Set up food, drinks, utensils, napkins, and plates either in your kitchen or outside in the picnic area. Decorations are optional but consider the number of items you're carrying outside that will have to be carried back inside.

- Choose a blanket or towel that can be easily cleaned or one that you don't mind getting dirty.
- You may need more than one blanket or towel to cover the area.

7 Eat and enjoy any planned activities. Have your guests fill their plates, grab drinks, and begin eating. Activities can be started before or after the meal depending on preference. If food is not prepared before guests arrive, consider starting activities while waiting for the food to be ready.



- 8 Clean up.** Pack up any leftover food, clean up utensils, cups, napkins, and plates, and throw away any trash. Bring any decorations and activities back inside if necessary. Wash the blanket/towel if necessary. Anything left outside may be ruined by the weather.
- If you are planning to picnic on a balcony or porch, keep in mind that crumbs or spills can attract bugs.



Warnings

- Crumbs and spills can attract bugs and ruin carpets, rugs, and blankets if not properly cleaned up. Make sure to clean any spills up immediately and vacuum or sweep up any crumbs after the picnic.
- Candles can be extremely dangerous if left unattended or if knocked over. Be careful decorating with candles.
- Do not leave pets or small children around your picnic area unattended.
- Be careful walking around your picnic area to prevent spills and stepping on anything harmful.

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