

December Community Newsletter

Tips for Living, Laughing and Loving Your Apartment Life

Cool Ideas for Throwing a Winter Wonderland Party

Interested in celebrating the “coolest” season with a little party? Then, check out these simple tips for throwing a fun winter wonderland gathering in your apartment!

~ Keep the look fresh as the driven snow by decorating with frosty whites and icy blues. Think glittery snowflakes and pretty, but inexpensive holiday ornaments.

~ Spice up your gathering with a winter-themed white elephant gift exchange. Ask each guest to bring a gift that is funny and winter-related, such as a silly knit hat or an ugly scarf. They can either re-gift a new item they’ve received or purchase something inexpensive (set a price limit of \$15 to \$20).

~ Use winter-themed disposable cups and plates to cut down on your after-party cleaning chores.

~ Set up a hot chocolate bar. Provide a variety of toppings, such as mini marshmallows and whip creams. For extra spirit, you’ll want to also provide a few bottles of alcohol that pair well with chocolate, such as Orange Curaçao or Peppermint Schnapps. Use a crock pot to keep the hot chocolate warm.

This gathering can be a fun and casual way to break up the winter doldrums!

Maintenance Tips for Cold Weather

Winter’s cold and wet weather conditions can wreak havoc on an apartment. So, here are 3 easy things you can do to help keep your place in tip-top condition!

~ Invest in an entryway shoe/boot tray. Snow and rain-sodden footwear, as well as de-icing agents, can wreak havoc on your apartment flooring during the winter. So, keep a tray by the front door where you can leave your wet shoes and boots to dry.

~ Prevent pipes from freezing - It’s always a good idea to keep the heat running in your apartment at a moderate temperature while you’re away to keep pipes from freezing. If temperatures are predicted to dip below freezing and your apartment has exterior walls, raise your thermostat setting a notch higher. It’s also a good idea to open up the cabinet doors under your sinks and turn the faucets on to a slow drip.

~ Keep food stored in airtight containers. When it gets cold, rodents and bugs head inside looking for a cozy place to stay and food to munch on. That’s why it’s important to keep your counters clean and free of crumbs. You should also store open food in airtight glass or plastic containers.

These are 3 effortless ways to prevent what could be major problems from occurring in the future.

Sleepytime Hot Chocolate

This hot cocoa recipe outshines store-bought mixes in flavor but also doubles as a comforting bedtime treat when infused with melatonin. Simply whisk cocoa powder and dark chocolate with your preferred milk and liquid melatonin, then top it with whipped cream or coconut cream for a dreamy night’s sleep.

1-¼ cups milk of choice
 1-1/2 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
 1 tbsp. maple syrup or sweetener of choice
 Salt
 1 tbsp. semi-sweet or dark chocolate chips
 ¼ tsp. vanilla extract or peppermint extract
 1/2 tsp. liquid melatonin
 Whipped cream

In a saucepan, warm milk until it simmers. Whisk in cocoa, sweetener, and salt. Melt chocolate chips, then remove from heat. Add vanilla/peppermint extract and liquid melatonin. Adjust flavor and sweetness, then pour into a mug. Top with your preferred whipped cream.

December Events

Dec 1st - Charlottesville Grand Illumination -
 Ting Pavilion 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Dec 2nd - Farmer’s Market
 Ix Art Park 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Dec 2nd - UVA vs Syracuse
 John Paul Jones Arena 12:00 PM

Dec 16th - UVA vs Northeastern
 John Paul Jones Arena 6:00 PM

Dec 18th - *Resident Event*
 Christmas Tree Contest Begins!

Dec 25th - Office Closed

Dec 31st - New Year’s Eve