

**101 WAYS TO PARTY** 

Guest-Case **Scenarios** Party fouls happen. Here's how to avoid them:

## THE 911: You let the host's pet outside

Alert the owner quietly to keep party guests from panicking. If everyone runs out searching for the cat, the party will stop, and the commotion could scare him into running farther. Quietly grab one or two nearby guests to search neighboring yards, but let the host lead. He or she may know the pet's favorite spots or escape tactics.

THE 911:

You spilled red wine There's hope for saving the carpet, cushion or poodle you've spilled on. To prevent hostess hysteria, act like an ER doc: Appear methodic, and she'll think you've got tricks up your sleeve. Blot the stain, douse it with club soda, cold water or white wine (the antidote to red), and repeat until the spot disappears. If it doesn't, apologize and offer to pay for it.

THE 911:

You broke something Shattering someone else's possessions can make you feel helpless. Don't justify, gush or blame it on the drunkest person in the room. Your hostess will appreciate a sincere apology the most. Accept responsibility and pledge to replace the item.

THE 911: You clogged the toilet We know, it's mortifying. First things first: Don't flush again. It could overflow. Most people keep a plunger, so check under the sink or in the closet and try to clear out the clog. If you can't find one, ask an accomplice to grab an empty 2-liter soda bottle. Put the spout in the toilet and squeeze the bottom; the airflow might help dislodge what's stuck. Nothing? Own up and have a (red-faced) laugh.

## Additional writing by

- ♣ Jennifer Chen

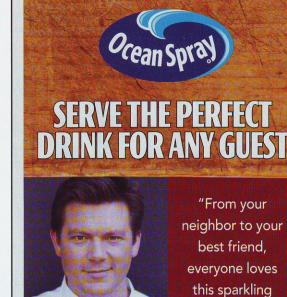
Allyson Dickman ❖ Sarah Stebbins❖ Amanda Waas

\* score props for taking the best pictures of the night.

for Starters, curb hamming and posturing by taking pictures inconspicuously: Use the light in the room instead of the flash; get people in midconversation rather than posing. If you do want posed shots, avoid trite announcements like "Say cheese!"—you might as well say, "Fake smile!" Just tell folks to take a breath and relax their shoulders, since cameras tend to make people tighten up. Once you've taken the picture, take another. You never know what you'll catch, and that goes double for angles (which you should vary) and framing (which you should play with). Try holding the camera slightly higher than eye level—so guests are looking at you, not the camera—or shift to one side to add a sense of motion. Your laughing boyfriend is a good shot, but your laughing boyfriend beside a friend who's just upended her eggnog is a classic. It might even be your next Christmas card.

## Special thanks to our partying pros:

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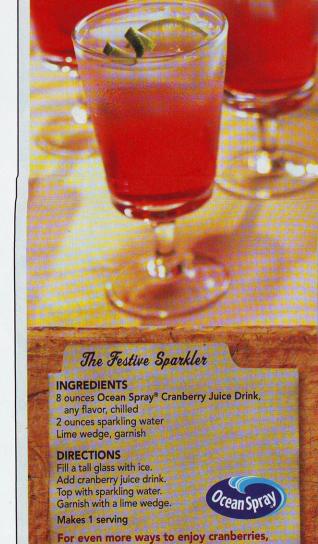
advertisement

cranberry mocktail

for the holidays

or anytime."

Chef Tyler Florence



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