

Going Green: Top Tips for Summer Picnics and Barbeques

Hey, it's almost another holiday weekend! Got your holiday plans together yet? Well, with the annual 4th of July holiday literally right around the corner, before you put your shopping list together for all the items you're going to need for your picnic or barbeque, here are our top tips to keep in mind so you can make your picnic not only enjoyable and successful, but also green and sustainable as well.

1. Buy Organic and Locally Produced Food

When you buy organic and locally produced food, you are supporting your local farmers and economy as well as the environment and also providing healthier, more nutritious foods for your friends and family. Some common locally produced foods are fresh fruits, vegetables, and nuts which are always a popular must have item for any picnic or barbeque.

2. Use Biodegradable Dishes & Napkins

You can reduce the amount of non-biodegradable plastics and styrofoam waste that accumulates in our landfills everyday by using only biodegradable plates, bowls, cups, cutlery and napkins instead. Or if possible, use real dishes and flatware along with cloth napkins depending on where your picnic or barbeque will be located and how many attendees are planning on joining you. It adds a nice special touch to your party and you can pop those dirty dishes into the dishwasher and the napkins in the washer afterwards, thereby reducing your carbon footprint at the same time.

3. Use Natural Cleaning Products for your Grill

When cleaning your grill, don't use harmful, hazardous chemical products to scrub and disinfect your grill, instead use natural, biodegradable cleaning products. Natural cleaning products can work just as well as chemical products and they don't leave chemical residue behind. Using natural cleaning products for your grill will make your environment much safer and healthier for everyone.

4. Use a Propane Grill or Natural Charcoal

Do you like to grill a lot? Then you might want to look into getting a propane grill. Green experts recommend propane grills because they burn much cleaner than the older charcoal grills. However, if you're like me and you want to hold onto your old charcoal grill, then look for natural charcoal briquettes as an alternative to the traditional charcoal briquettes you've been buying in the past.

5. Don't Forget to Recycle

Lastly, don't forget to recycle during and after your picnic or barbeque is over. If you haven't started recycling before, you can quickly and easily start by setting up a few extra trash bags and labeling them. You should recycle plastic containers, steel/tin/aluminum containers, milk cartons, cardboard

boxes/containers, paper, and batteries. Most parks and public places offer a recycle trash bin for you to use. However, you can also check with your local community to see if they have a recycling program and if they have a regular scheduled pick up for your neighborhood.