

TOP 10 TIPS for hosting a baby shower

1. **Shower Host Etiquette:** It's proper etiquette for someone(s) other than relatives of the mom-to-be to host the baby shower. That way, the family can just enjoy!
2. **Invitations:** Paper invitations are the best if you can afford them, but using an online resource for invitations is totally acceptable. I prefer Evite to Paperless Post because of the user friendliness and visual appeal.
3. **Decorations:** Again, budget is generally an issue (especially if you have a lot of friends having babies at the same time, like me!). So, some simple decor options are scrapbook paper banners (again, check back in February for some great ideas), printables on Pinterest (there are a ton of great options), candles (lots of tea lights or votives can make a great centerpiece) and flowers (go to Publix to get their 3 bunches for \$12 deal!).
4. **Mom-To-Be Chauffeur:** It's a great idea to check in with the mom-to-be to make sure she has a ride to the shower so that she doesn't have to drive herself or show up by herself. This is always just a kind courtesy!
5. **Bags & Coats:** Often times there isn't enough room for all the bags and coats that the ladies will bring, so make a plan for overflow if you don't have a large entry or coat closet to house all of them. A bedroom or office can serve as an overflow if need be.
6. **Gifts:** Make sure to have someone designated to right out each gift and who gave them so the mom-to-be knows who to thank for what.
7. **Thank You's:** Have envelopes available for guests to write out their name and address so the mom-to-be is all set to mail her thank you notes!
8. **Drinks:** Ladies like to have something to refresh their palettes while enjoying the festivities. Make sure there are plenty of options available including ice water, different kinds of tea (don't forget the hot water), coffee and some sort of punch (I usually just combined seltzer water with cranberry juice and add some cut up fruit to make it pretty).
9. **Packing Up:** It's helpful to have someone designated to pack up gifts after they've been opened so that it's easy for the mom-to-be to transport after the shower. You can just use some of the gift bags that have been opened to pack it all up.
10. **Bathroom Etiquette:** Remember, you're going to have a lot of women drinking a lot of fluid which means lots of trips to the powder room. So, be sure to stock up on toilet paper and keep in an obvious place (i.e., under the sink or on a toilet paper caddy), and light a fragrant candle as well. :)