HOST THOUGHTFULLY 017

Make Gathering Feel Easy

GIVE GUESTS A WELCOMING PLACE TO LAND.



Before guests arrive, decide where you would like everyone to gather. Make that space inviting while keeping the cooking and plating area easy to work in.

1 Create a clear gathering place

Arrange seats so guests can face one another. Put the first drinks where you want the conversation to begin.

Why: The most inviting spot gives arriving guests a natural place to settle.

2 Keep the kitchen route open

Move bags, stools or spare furniture away from the route you will use to carry dinner plates.

Why: You can finish and serve the meal without asking guests to move repeatedly.

3 Welcome people into the group

Introduce each arrival and help them find a seat or a drink. Explain briefly when you need to return to the kitchen.

Why: Guests know where to be and can continue enjoying one another while you finish.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

If everyone gathers in the kitchen

Offer a comfortable spot nearby where people can still talk with you. Keep the plating counter reserved for the meal.

Make coats and bags easy

Choose a place for belongings before the first arrival. Avoid leaving guests to balance a bag beside a dinner chair.

Give drinks a home

Use a side table or another convenient surface. Include somewhere to set down a glass while talking.

Check the transition to dinner

Make sure guests can move to their seats while you bring out plates. Keep chairs and the serving route free of clutter.

THE PLATING MINDSET

Arrange the room to welcome conversation and protect the space you need to finish each plate.