HOST THOUGHTFULLY 018

Water Should Not Need a Request



MAKE IT PART OF THE WELCOME.

Offer water from the beginning of the evening and keep it easy to reach during dinner. Give it a planned place on the table alongside each guest's other drink.

1 Set a water glass for everyone

Include a suitable water glass at every place, whether the guest is also having wine or another drink.

Why: Water becomes an ordinary part of the setting rather than a special request.

2 Keep refills within reach

Place a manageable carafe where guests can use it comfortably. Use more than one if the table needs it.

Why: Refilling a glass should not require reaching across someone's plated dinner.

3 Offer a simple choice

Ask whether guests prefer still or sparkling when both are available. Keep plain water available even if you also offer flavored water.

Why: Guests can choose what they enjoy without having to explain a preference.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Start before dinner

Offer water when guests arrive as well as at the table. Do not wait until the first course is already being eaten.

Choose a useful vessel

Use a carafe that is comfortable to lift and pour. Put it where it has a stable spot away from the table edge.

Keep additions optional

Serve citrus or other flavorings separately when practical. Plain water should remain easy to choose.

Check during the meal

Notice an empty carafe and replenish it at a natural pause. A small habit can save interruptions for both host and guests.

THE PLATING MINDSET Treat water as part of a complete place setting. Make choosing it and refilling it easy.