HOST THOUGHTFULLY 047

Send Food Home Thoughtfully



MAKE THE OFFER OPTIONAL AND THE PACKING PRACTICAL.

If guests would enjoy taking a portion home, offer it without obligation. Pack only suitable leftovers and consider how they will stay cold during the trip.

1 Offer without expectation

Ask whether a guest would like a portion. Accept a no without making the remaining food their responsibility.

Why: A take-home meal can be a welcome extra rather than a task.

2 Pack a useful serving

Use a clean, shallow container with a secure lid. Name the food and date, and keep it refrigerated until departure.

Why: The guest receives something easy to recognize and use.

3 Plan the trip home

Use an insulated bag with ice packs when needed to keep perishable food at 40 F or below. Refrigerate promptly on arrival.

Why: The time away from refrigeration includes the journey, not just the time at your table.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Pack before the goodbye

Prepare an accepted portion ahead of departure and keep it in the refrigerator. Bring it out when the guest is leaving.

Share the useful details

Mention ingredients the guest needs to know and any relevant preparation instructions you have verified.

Keep the same time limit

Do not send food that has exceeded safe room-temperature limits. Transport does not reset the clock.

Let the offer go

If a suitable cold trip is not practical, keep the food for your own later meal. A goodbye does not need a container.

THE PLATING MINDSET

An optional take-home portion should be easy to carry, clearly identified and kept appropriately cold.