

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## How to Host A Zero Waste New Year's Eve Party – Part I

As we bid farewell to the old and embrace the new, unfortunately, the spirit of celebration often goes hand in hand with excessive waste production. Yuck, let's resolve to ditch that nasty habit! Cherishing our world's finite resources means it's crucial to reconsider our approach to festivities, including New Year's Eve parties.



Hosting a **Zero Waste New Year's Eve** Party isn't just an opportunity to welcome the upcoming year with a clear conscience; it's also a chance to inspire sustainable practices among friends and family for the wonderful year(s) ahead!

**DECORATIONS: Decking the halls for the New Year can still be a vibrant affair without contributing to landfill waste.**

- Use seasonal foliage for naturally vibrant touches of color.
- Make or buy sturdy banners or streamers that can be reused for years to come – after all, avoiding single-use applies to more than just takeout boxes and shopping bags.
- Create attractive light displays using mason jars to add personality to your party.
- Strips of old fabric scraps can be tied together to make streamers.
- Burlap or old cloth can create elegant and understated table runners.
- Do away with party favors. You can save money, create less waste, and give your friends and loved ones the gift of a decluttered 2024 by skipping party favors.

**TABLEWARE: Resorting to disposable plates, cups, and utensils was so last year – that was the old, lazy you! Bring in the new year with new habits, like always opting for reusables.**

- Creatively folded cloth napkins can add seasonal color and flair to your celebration.
- Reusable plates & cups will invite your guests to savor every bite and even help to build a bit of community as a few kind souls usually volunteer to help with dishes.
- Wash out old glass jars to use cups for your guests. The funky, mismatched containers will give your party that festive, but unbothered vibe.
- Set out old papers as placemats with crayons for any kids attending the party or adults looking to fulfill their resolution “to be more childlike” in the New Year.

Stay tuned for part two of this article next week for even more Zero Waste New Year's Eve Party tips.

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