## Housewarming Party Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

## Planning

- □ Set a budget for the party.
- □ Make a guest list include close friends as well as new neighbors.
- □ Send out invitations or do the inviting over the phone.
- □ Specify 'no gifts' on the invitation.
- □ Keep track of RSVPs so you know how many guests will be coming.
- □ Be certain to provide good directions.
- □ Make a shopping list.
- □ Consider a finger food menu serve different choices in each room.
- Get mineral water or soft drinks for people who do not drink alcoholic beverages.
- □ Try to prepare the food on the day of the Housewarming Party.
- □ Make sure that you clean your new house before the party.
- □ Plan the games or other activities.
- □ The Party
  - Do last-minute things such as light candles, turn on music or set out appetizers just before guests arrive.
  - □ As guests arrive provide them with a beverage.
  - Give your guests a tour of the home.
  - Be careful that everyone is introduced with a brief explanation of his or her relationship to you.
  - Always be available to answer questions about the house or neighborhood.
  - □ Be sure to take plenty of memorable photos.
  - □ Express thanks to the guests for coming.
  - □ If you have received housewarming gifts, then always open the presents after the guests have departed.