

## *Go Ahead! Host A House Party*



Thank you for partnering with EWG to host this important Kid-Safe event. Grassroots involvement is exactly what it will take to pass the Kid-Safe Chemicals Act. We're thrilled that you've invited us to share some information with your community about this federal legislation.

Many people come to this issue out of interest in protecting themselves and their children. So, in addition to discussing Kid-Safe, offer your guests our most popular environmental health tip sheets.

Your host packet contains thorough, but understandable, information about the Kid-Safe Chemicals Act, and a DVD of our 10 Americans presentation. You can show it during the party.

Because we've hosted a few of these events ourselves, we have some suggestions for throwing a fun, interesting and inspirational party.

### **1. PLANNING: Invitations – Audio/Visuals – Snacks**

Planning is everything. Getting your ducks in a row makes for a smoother party and happier host. We recommend that you:

- **Pick a good day and time for your crowd.** As you know, gathering busy people in one place is a challenge. Pick a day and 2-hour timeframe that works for your guests. Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons sometimes work well. Do a quick online poll if you're unsure. Doodle ([www.doodle.com](http://www.doodle.com)) is an easy and free way to propose several times and for your guests to respond.
- **Send your e-vitation 2 to 3 weeks before the party.** Timing is everything! Catch guests before their calendars are full, but not so far ahead that they forget, or other commitments pop up. You can prepare personalized e-vites, track RSVPs and send follow-up messages on free sites like E-vite.com and Eventbrite.com. Use our sample invitation language if you like. ([www.ewg.org/kidsafe/house-party-sample-invitation-language](http://www.ewg.org/kidsafe/house-party-sample-invitation-language))
- **Invite enough people to get right-sized crowd.** Between 15 and 20 guests works well, so send out 25 to 40 invites. And count on a few no-shows. It happens to the best of us!

## *Go Ahead! Host A House Party*

- **A/V equipment.** This party centers around our 10 Americans video presentation, so you'll want to show it on a large screen, with good sound, in clear view of the audience.
- **Food and drink.** A key component of any successful party, right? Let them know what it'll be – gets 'em every time.

### **2. PARTY TIME: Agenda - The Declaration - Contacting Legislators**

Make the most of your guests' time by informing and inspiring them before they have to run. Let them know what to expect as you welcome them. Our suggestions:

- **Socialize** (25 min). Provide name tags if your guests don't know one another. A quick round of introductions to learn people's names, connection to the host and interests is a great ice-breaker.
- **Watch and discuss the 10 Americans presentation** (35 min). Test your a/v equipment before guests arrive.
- **Distribute and review Kid-Safe packets** (15 min). Show your guests what's inside – they're far more likely to have a look later if they know what's there! Kid-Safe info on the left, green parent tips on the right. Tip: Share the work – ask a guest or your child to do this.
- **Explain and sign the Declaration** (10 minutes). This short but powerful statement is a great way to engage your guests. We'll use it to show Congress how many people support protecting children and we'll keep signers up to date on kids' health issues. Tip: Have your child ask guests to sign – who could refuse?
- **Contact your U.S. Senators and Representative** (15 min). Empower your guests to get involved. Our draft letter or email should be on your computer screen, ready to edit, so guests can sign and send a letter then and there. Our handy call guide can help guests call their legislators. Sending a letter is much stronger, especially if your party is after business hours.
- **Take action during the party**, when people are focused on the issue. Once they disperse, they are far less likely to get active.
- **Discuss next steps** (20 min). Tell your guests that you'll e-mail links to EWG's environmental health tips and Kid-Safe info and actions. Decide what will happen next: Who will throw the next party? Who will join you to meet with your member of Congress?

### **3. FOLLOW-UP: Thank Your Guests - Stay Involved - Report Out**

Follow-up is essential. Consciousness raising is valuable, but when coupled with action, it's the stuff of change. We suggest that you:

- **Follow up** with thanks and an opportunity to stay involved. Personalize our follow-up e-message with your own thank-you note. The message has links to EWG's green parenting tips and opportunities to stay involved with the Kid-Safe campaign.
- **Find one guest** to host her own party. When he or she signs up with EWG, we'll reward you with a gift.

## *Go Ahead! Host A House Party*

- **Meet with your Congressional representative** in his or her district office. Encourage your guests to join you. Let your local lawmaker know that there are many constituents in the Congressional district who want him or her to support Kid-Safe. Present a packet with signed letters from you and all your guests and friends. Need more help from us? Just ask.
- **Let us know how it goes!** We love feedback! It helps improve our activist tool kit and build momentum for Kid-Safe. Send yours to [lisa@ewg.org](mailto:lisa@ewg.org). Take a picture and upload it on our Kid-Safe Flickr group, too. Showcasing parties across the country is a great way to inspire others.

## Go Ahead! Host A House Party

### House Party Sample Invitation Language:

I hope you can join me for a couple of hours to learn about a topic that interests a lot of people these days: toxic chemicals and your family's environmental health. You've probably heard about polluted breast milk, furniture contaminated with toxic flame retardants and the harmful effects of Teflon. And you've probably wondered which chemicals you should avoid and how exactly to minimize your family's exposures. Whether it's BPA, PBDEs (toxic flame retardants), PFOA (Teflon) or any of the 80,000 other chemicals on the market today, many people want to understand why these chemicals are a problem, who allowed them in our consumer products and what we should be doing about it.

We'll learn why so many toxic chemicals are on the market, get some simple tips to improve our families' environmental health and hear about an effective national solution: [the Kid-Safe Chemicals Act](#). If passed, Kid-Safe would overhaul our existing ineffective federal chemical policy and ensure that chemicals are safe for kids before they are put on the market and into the products we use everyday. And it's people just like us who can speak up and ensure it becomes law. I'm partnering with the Environmental Working Group (EWG) [[www.ewg.org/forparents](http://www.ewg.org/forparents)] to host the party. I sure hope you can join me for an interesting and inspiring evening.

### Sample follow-up/thank you email from host to guest

I really enjoyed having you participate in my Kid-Safe house party – thank you for making the time to join me. I hope that you found it as enjoyable, educational and empowering as I did. I'm ready to make a few changes around the house to improve my family's environmental health and to start spreading the word about Kid-Safe. It's clearly the right answer to the toxic chemical problem we have in this country.

So I'm going to do whatever I can to see that it passes. I hope you will, too. There are a variety of actions for us to take – something for everyone. I'm including a few links that will be useful for you to raise your voice in favor of Kid-Safe. And if you have any questions, the EWG staff is happy to connect with you. Lisa Frack helped me organize this party and you can reach her at: [lisa@ewg.org](mailto:lisa@ewg.org).

### More Action Opportunities

- **Tell your friends** that you signed *The e Declaration* for Kid-Safe Chemicals by sharing the link on your social networks: [www.kidsafechemicals.org](http://www.kidsafechemicals.org)
- **Host your own house party.** It's a fun and effective way to spread the word. It's all here: <http://www.ewg.org/kidsafe/houseparty>
- **Blog about Kid-Safe** or share it with bloggers you know and encourage them to post about it. All the info they'll need is on EWG's Kid-Safe web page: [www.ewg.org/kidsafe](http://www.ewg.org/kidsafe)

## *Go Ahead! Host A House Party*

- **Meet with your members representatives in of Congress.** . Grab some friends and head to a local office – staff regularly meet with constituents . Identify a Senator or Representative Grab some friends and head to their local office – staff regularly meets with constituents. Identify a Senator or Representative and deliver one of EWG's Kid-Safe packets. You can refer to EWG's talking points.
- **Take action when EWG asks.** E-mails, letters and calls to members of Congress *really matter*. With them, we can pass this law.

### **Environmental Health Tips**

- **Enviroblog**, EWG's blog on environmental health [www.enviroblog.org](http://www.enviroblog.org)
- EWG's web page just **For Parents** page [www.ewg.org/forparents](http://www.ewg.org/forparents)
- **Skin Deep** – EWG's cosmetics safety database [www.cosmeticsdatabase.com](http://www.cosmeticsdatabase.com)

Thanks again for joining me for such an important conversation.