



JUNE

Newsletter



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"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards"

- Soren Kierkegaard

5 Unique Ideas for a Father's Day Celebration



On June 17 this year, families across the country will honor the dads in their lives for Father's Day. As with any holiday, the most meaningful way to celebrate may not be with a card or gift, but rather an experience that the whole family can enjoy together. Still making your Father's Day plans?

Here are a few unique ideas for a day that Dad is sure to remember:

- Check out a local museum. Whether the special man in your life is into art, science, or history, your city may have a museum to pique his interest. Taking the family for a day at the museum is an educational way to spend time together while escaping the summer heat.
- Take a cooking class together. If Dad is an aspiring home chef (or you would like him to become one!), enrolling in a cooking class would be a fun and productive bonding activity. Many specialty grocery stores and kitchen retailers offer classes with menus suited for various palettes, and some even feature kid-friendly classes.
- Take a day trip. Even if it's not time for your summer vacation yet, a quick getaway can provide a dose of escapism and an exciting opportunity for family bonding time. See if there are any destinations that Dad would enjoy within a two-hour drive of your home, and consider surprising him by not telling him where you are headed.
- Treat Dad to a day at the spa. Massages and facials are not just for women. If your special guy could use some pampering, consider booking him an appointment for a luxurious day at the spa or accompany him for a relaxing and romantic couple's activity!
- Have a mandatory relaxation weekend at home. For many dads, weekends get taken over by household chores and sometimes, the best gift is to simply shred the to-do list, cancel all plans, and enjoy some leisure time at home. This Father's Day, consider telling Dad that he is prohibited from working around the house and the weekend is his to just read a book, watch the game, and unwind.

Source: rd.com

Frozen Hot Chocolate

Directions

1. Place the ice, milk and hot chocolate powder into a blender. Blend for 1 minute until thoroughly combined.
2. Drizzle 1 tbsp of chocolate



sauce around the rim of two large glasses. Pour the frozen hot chocolate into the two glasses.

3. Top with whipped cream, then drizzle on the remaining chocolate sauce. Sprinkle on the chocolate shavings.
4. Serve immediately.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups crushed Ice
- 2 cups milk
- 4 sachets (or 2.5 heaped tbsp) of hot chocolate cocoa powder (the sweetened kind)
- 4 tbsp chocolate sauce
- Whipped cream
- 2 tbsp chocolate shavings

Source: centercutcook.com

Avoid These Common Staging Mistakes When Selling Your Home

In the past several years, home staging or the process of arranging factors like furniture, lighting, colors, and decorative items to boost a home's appeal has emerged as a powerful way to attract buyers. Statistics indicate that staged homes sell more quickly and for up to twenty percent more than their unstaged counterparts. However, staging must be done properly, as there are several common pitfalls that could actually have a negative effect on buyers' perceptions.

Are you thinking about staging your home for a successful sale? Whether you are doing it on your own or working with a professional, be sure to avoid the following mistakes:

- Faking it. Fake flowers, bowls of fake fruit, and even fake computer monitors are commonly used in model homes as a way to create the illusion of a functional living space. However, if your goal is to make

your home look warm and inviting to buyers, displaying these artificial items could backfire. At best, they will make the home look obviously staged, and at worst, they may appear tacky and impersonal.

- Not staging appropriately for the size of the room. While keeping your home free of clutter is essential for attracting buyers, it's a common misconception that adorning rooms with minimal amounts of undersized furniture and décor is the key to making the home appear more spacious. In reality, the most important factor is to decorate proportionately for the size of the room. In a sprawling room with high ceilings, small furnishings would look dwarfed and awkward and on the other hand, overstuffed couches and other large items would make a smaller room appear cramped. As you choose items to place or keep in your rooms, strive to create spaces that are comfortable and practical, yet open enough to allow room to grow in accordance with buyers' imaginations.
- Closing doors. While it may seem obvious that you do not want to cordon off important sections of your home to buyers, doors may be closed before showings out of habit. However, this may cause rooms to appear unnecessarily small or could result in buyers missing entire spaces, like impressive closets or basements. Before a scheduled showing, perform a final walk-through to ensure that all doors are open (unless they are hiding an unsightly feature) and that buyers will be able to explore the home seamlessly.
- Excessive use of neutral colors. It's true that a neutral color scheme is generally recommended for homes on the market. As opposed to bold and distracting hues, neutral colors such as variations on beige, gray, and white will help buyers picture themselves living there. However, too much of a good thing can harm buyers' perceptions of your home, making it appear bland and unmemorable. Instead, spice up your neutral palette with some vibrant accent walls or boldly colored pieces of furniture.
- Ignoring the outside. First impressions count, and potential buyers begin to form theirs as soon as they pull up to your home. Therefore, be sure that your staging efforts extend to the yard. Ensure that the landscaping is well-maintained, fences and gates are freshly painted, and the driveway and walkways are in good repair. Consider putting out a new welcome mat or planting some colorful flowers to greet buyers before they even set foot in your home.