



## What's So Dangerous About - A Party In The Garden?

When the sun shines there's nothing more appealing than a party in the garden. From a simple picnic on the lawn to cooking a meal on open coals on the barbeque, it's a wonderful excuse to enjoy a social get-together with family and friends. And, of course you want everyone to enjoy themselves; and it's home, so it's a safe place. But is it? When the alcohol is flowing and children start to become inquisitive in unfamiliar surroundings, it's worth doing some forward planning to make sure that everyone leaves happy and without mishap.

### Food Preparation

- Avoid cross contamination of food.
- Ensure all meat/poultry is thoroughly defrosted before cooking it.
- Do not place raw food next to cooked food on BBQ
- Use separate tongs for raw and cooked chicken/meat.
- Ensure all meat is thoroughly cooked.
- Consider pre-cooking poultry. But ensure it is thoroughly re-heated on the BBQ.
- Keep sharp knives away from children
- Do not overload the BBQ
- Dispose of all leftover food appropriately. Food should not be left to sit out for any longer than necessary.

### Garden Safety

- Ponds / water features covered or fenced?
- Paddling pools supervised?
- Chemicals e.g. weed / insect killer / paint / wood preserver locked away?
- Don't spray plants or use weed killer on the lawn for a few days beforehand.
- Power tools (cables tripping hazard / tools tempting) locked away?
- Garden tools (e.g. secateurs, hammers) locked away?
- Poisonous plants covered or children made aware not to go near them.
- Sharp / prickly plants cut back from paths / grass?
- Fences and gates secure?
- Check that holes in hedges which border roads are covered,
- Check walls and fences are stable.
- Do any trees need pruning to stop limbs falling?
- Paving stones fitted properly to prevent tripping?

### BBQ Safety

- Ensure there is sufficient space around the BBQ.
- Clear area around BBQ of any slip/trip hazards
- Visually inspect a gas BBQ to check:
  - Gas cylinder and hose pipes in good condition
  - Taps work correctly
  - No gas leakage
- Prepare solid fuel BBQ:
  - Do not use flammable solvents
  - Use solid fire lighters only or charcoal that can be lit from the bag
  - BBQ should be situated away from combustible materials
  - Ensure coals have reached a sufficient temperature before cooking on them
  - Ensure charcoal is completely cold before discarding it.
- Have fire-fighting equipment to hand. For example fire blanket, bucket of water or sand
- Use long-handled tongs
- A fully stocked first aid box should be readily available.
- Consider using plastic glasses in place of real glass.

### Note:

Whilst this fact sheet gives general guidance on the law relating to this topic at the time of drafting, it is not intended to be a comprehensive guide to this area of law. You are advised to seek specific advice in relation to any particular issues that need to be addressed in relation to this topic by a competent person.