

How to Host a Cozy Hot Drink Party

Checklist: Hot Drink Party Essentials

Decor and Ambiance:

- String lights or fairy lights
- Candles (unscented for near food/drinks)
- Blankets and cushions
- Natural decor (pinecones, greenery, dried fruit)
- Music playlist (soft jazz, acoustic, or holiday tunes)

Hot Drink Bar:

Base Drinks:

- Hot chocolate
- Spiced apple cider
- Coffee and/or espresso
- Chai tea latte
- Warm water for tea options (herbal, black, green)

Toppings and Mix-Ins:

- Whipped cream
- Marshmallows (classic and mini)
- Chocolate shavings or cocoa powder
- Cinnamon sticks and ground cinnamon
- Candy canes (whole or crushed)
- Star anise and nutmeg
- Flavored syrups (vanilla, caramel, hazelnut)
- Liqueurs (Bailey's, Kahlúa, spiced rum)

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Treats:

Sweet:

- Cookies (gingerbread, shortbread, chocolate chip)
- Mini pastries (cinnamon rolls, scones, croissants)
- Chocolate-dipped fruits or pretzels
- Cake (pound cake, bundt cake, or cupcakes)

Savory:

- Mini sandwiches (smoked salmon, turkey sliders)
- Cheese board with crackers and nuts
- Soup shooters (butternut squash or tomato bisque)

Extras:

- Insulated carafes or slow cookers
- Mug-decorating station materials (markers, stencils, blank mugs)
- Small gift bags for favors (mini cocoa mix jars, candles, etc.)

Hot Drink Recipes

Rich Hot Chocolate:

Ingredients:

- 4 cups whole milk
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup dark chocolate chips
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder

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- 1/4 cup sugar (adjust to taste)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions:

1. Heat milk and cream in a saucepan over medium heat until steaming.
2. Add chocolate chips, cocoa powder, and sugar, whisking until fully melted.
3. Stir in vanilla extract and serve hot. Top with whipped cream, marshmallows, or chocolate shavings.

Spiced Apple Cider:

Ingredients:

- 8 cups apple cider
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 4 whole cloves
- 2 star anise
- 1 orange, sliced
- 1/4 cup brown sugar (optional)

Instructions:

1. Combine all ingredients in a slow cooker or large pot.
2. Heat on low for 2-3 hours, stirring occasionally.
3. Strain spices before serving. Garnish with a cinnamon stick or orange slice.

Chai Tea Latte:

Ingredients:

- 4 cups water

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- 4 chai tea bags
- 2 cups whole milk (or a non-dairy alternative)
- 2 tablespoons honey or sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Instructions:

1. Boil water and steep tea bags for 5 minutes.
2. Heat milk in a saucepan until steaming, then whisk vigorously to froth.
3. Combine tea and milk in mugs. Stir in honey and sprinkle cinnamon on top.

Peppermint Mocha:

Ingredients:

- 1 cup brewed coffee
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 1-2 tablespoons sugar (to taste)
- 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract
- Whipped cream and crushed candy canes for topping

Instructions:

1. Heat milk, cocoa powder, and sugar in a saucepan until smooth.
2. Stir in coffee and peppermint extract.
3. Pour into mugs and top with whipped cream and crushed candy canes.