

Whitewater Police Department Tips on Partying Smart, Safe & Legal

Before having a party, remember what Whitewater is about. Whitewater is a unique and diverse community where your neighbors are your peers. They too are seeking a positive living experience and a high quality of life. It is your responsibility, especially while having a party, to make this happen for other people. Respect your neighbors.

Guidelines for Parties and Special Events

The following is a list of suggestions for all Whitewater residents regarding hosting parties:

- ♠ Consider your neighbors... Not all of them want to be at your party.
- ♣ Visit surrounding neighbors, be friendly, and make sure they know a couple of days in advance that a party will occur.
- ♦ Invite only people you know. The better you know people, the easier it is to keep them under control.
- ♥ Do not advertise alcohol-related parties to the general public.
- ♠ Serve food as an alcohol absorbent. Serve the food prior to and in conjunction with the service of alcohol.
- ♣ Do not sell alcohol. It is illegal to have an un-licensed cash bar. It is also illegal to sell cups, have a cover charge, or charge for a band or other entertainment and "give-a-way" the alcohol. Doing so constitutes a crime.
- ♦ Monitor your party. Keep it under control if you are outside, or have open windows. Remember - the noise outside carries more than you think, especially at night. Neighbors will become more aware of it.
- ♥ Do not let anyone drive home drunk. The host can be held civilly and criminally liable for the drunken person's actions. This is true, even if he or she goes somewhere else and drinks more. Know when to stop serving alcohol.
- ♠ Ask guests to respect the neighbors. The host is responsible for the condition of the neighborhood after the party.
- ♣ Do not sponsor large open parties which tend to get out of control.
- ♦ Do not allow underage drinking.
- ♥ Do not carry open containers of alcoholic beverages in public. This is illegal in Whitewater even if you are over 21 years of age.

Selling Alcohol

It is against the law to:

1. Charge for alcoholic beverages at the door of a party.
2. Charge for alcoholic beverages in a package deal (such as providing beer with dinner, selling cups to fill with free beer, etc.)
3. To be frequenting a place of illegal activity such as a party where alcohol is being served illegally.

The City of Whitewater Police Department is focused on deterring illegal sales and consumption of alcohol. The Police Department will take any actions necessary to reduce illegal alcohol sales.

Property owners or their legal agents will be notified by the Whitewater Police Department of violations resulting in the issuance of police citations for nuisance parties. Owners and agents of rental properties will be expected to increase their superintending control or be held accountable.

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City of Whitewater Ordinances

There are several state laws and city ordinances, which help you party **SMART, SAFE, and LEGAL.**

1. Underage Consumption/Possession of Alcohol

This law prohibits the consumption or possession of alcohol by anyone under the age of 21. If an officer has any reason to believe that alcohol may be involved, the officer may request that a Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) be administered. If the results are over .00%, an arrest could be made and/or a citation issued. Whether you are driving or not, this violation will remain on your driving record for a period of 10 years.

2. Open Intoxicants in Public

Prohibits the possession of any alcoholic beverage in an open container or a container with a broken seal in any public place or private area open to the public, except a licensed liquor establishment or elsewhere as provided in ordinance.

3. Noise

Prohibits noise, which may disturb neighbors any time during the day or night. Examples are stereos played at loud levels and inappropriate shouting in public at any time. If noise can be heard from your property, and it bothers someone, you would be in violation of the noise ordinance.

4. Disorderly Conduct

Prohibits causing a public disturbance, public urination, loitering, obstruction of a highway, prowling about the premises of property, fighting, etc.

5. Misrepresentation of Age

Prohibits the use of false identification, misleading verbal or written information, to gain entry into a licensed liquor establishment. If the license or identification is used for this purpose, it will be confiscated and turned over to the Whitewater Police Department leading to arrest and fines.

Penalties

Underage Possession/Consumption of Alcohol

- \$200 to \$1000 in fines plus fees and suspension of drivers licenses

Open Intoxicants in Public

- \$200 to \$500 in fines plus fees

Noise Violations

- \$150 to \$500 in fines plus fees

Disorderly Conduct

- \$200 to \$500 in fines plus fees

Sale of Alcohol without License

- \$200 to \$1000 in fines plus fees

Furnishing Alcohol to Underage Persons

- \$350 to \$1000 in fines plus fees

Misrepresentation of Age

- \$500 to \$1000 in fines plus fees

**Remember!
Party SMART, SAFE, and LEGAL.**

WHITEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT
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