



## **Summer Picnics & BBQs**

### **Environmental Tips**

- 🌍 Set your picnic table with cloth napkins and reusable plates, cups and utensils. Table cloths and plates look better, cost less than throw-away paper and plastic products in the long run and decrease the trash going to landfills. If you do use plastic, remember that it can be washed and used again.
- 🌍 Use a sturdy, reusable tablecloth instead of a disposable one.
- 🌍 Bring an extra trash bag with you when you go to the park or on a hike so you can pick up your own trash and any that other people have left behind.
- 🌍 Buy your food and picnic items in bulk. This saves you money and reduces the amount of packaging waste. Individually packaged items produce more waste.
- 🌍 Citronella candles and sprays are great methods for keeping away bugs without polluting the air or hurting living things – including you and your family.
- 🌍 Are ants marching toward your table? Keep them away safely by sprinkling one of the following where you don't want them to go: salt, sage, red chili powder, cucumber peelings, or cream of tartar powder.
- 🌍 If you're decorating for a summer party, avoid releasing any helium balloons into the atmosphere. When the balloons pop, the rubber particles that fall back to Earth can be harmful to animals and fish if swallowed.
- 🌍 Instead of using toxic lighter fluid or petroleum-based fire starter products, try a safer alternative like a chimney-style or electric starter. If you can't give up your lighter fluid, use the minimum amount to help reduce air pollution.
- 🌍 If you barbecue a lot, consider replacing your charcoal grill with an electric one to reduce pollutants.
- 🌍 When taking advantage of the abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables available in summer, buy organic. Pesticides are harmful to your health and the planet.