



*From Your Local  
Real Estate Expert*

## Sizzle and Serve: Tips for an Unforgettable Backyard BBQ

### *Did You Know...*

From 1949 – 1952, the White House was completely gutted and rebuilt with concrete and steel beams in place of its original wooden joists.



The summer is hot, and the burgers are ready for the grill! Here are some ideas to make your backyard barbecue unforgettable!

- **Set a Theme** - Whether it's a classic Americana cookout, a tropical luau, or a rustic cowboy theme, a cohesive theme can make your barbecue feel more special. Decorate with small touches like themed plates, tablecloths, and string lights.
- **Plan the Perfect Menu** - Go beyond the basics - mix it up with some unique items like marinated shrimp skewers or veggie-packed kabobs. Include fresh, easy-to-serve side dishes like coleslaw, grilled corn, and fruit salad. A refreshing signature drink, like a summery cocktail or infused water, adds a memorable touch.
- **Get Creative with Grilling Techniques** - Elevate the grill experience by trying techniques like cedar plank grilling, smoked meats, or marinades with fresh herbs. Set up a rotisserie if you can, or try grilling desserts like pineapple, or peaches.
- **Set the Mood with Music** - Create a playlist that fits your theme, keeping the volume low enough for conversation. You might even want to mix in some upbeat tunes and old-school classics for a crowd-pleasing vibe.
- **Set Up Comfortable Seating and Shade** - Make sure there's enough seating with a variety of options—blankets, lawn chairs, and picnic tables work well. Consider setting up some umbrellas or a canopy so guests can find shade if it's sunny.
- **Games and Activities** - Offer a few lawn games like cornhole, horseshoes, or even a simple frisbee or catch for the kids. If your barbecue goes into the evening, set up a fire pit for s'mores or campfire stories.
- **Light Up the Night** - String lights, lanterns, or tiki torches can create an inviting, warm glow as the sun goes down. Candles or a small fire pit can add ambiance and ward off bugs (or consider citronella candles for extra bug protection).
- **Plan for Surprises** - Consider a fun surprise like a mini ice cream station, outdoor projector with a summer movie, or a DIY dessert bar with toppings so guests can customize their sweet treat.

# Humidity Hacks: How to Keep Your Home Dry and Mold-Free This Summer

In hot and humid weather, it's essential for homeowners to focus on keeping their homes cool, controlling moisture, and preventing pest issues. Here are some effective tips:

- 1. Optimize Air Conditioning:** Ensure that the AC is running efficiently by keeping filters clean and considering a programmable thermostat. It's also a good idea to keep blinds and curtains closed during peak sunlight hours to minimize indoor heat gain
- 2. Use Dehumidifiers:** High humidity levels can lead to mold and mildew growth. A dehumidifier can reduce moisture in the air, making it more comfortable and helping prevent damage to walls, floors, and furniture. In particularly damp areas, such as basements, a larger dehumidifier may be necessary
- 3. Ventilate Properly:** Run exhaust fans in the kitchen and bathroom when cooking or showering to help remove excess moisture. For those with whole-house ventilation systems, keeping them on can also help reduce humidity indoors.
- 4. Prevent Pest Infestations:** Hot and humid weather can attract insects, so it's important to keep doors and windows closed or install screens. Removing standing water (in places like gutters or potted plants) helps prevent mosquitoes, while sealing any small cracks can keep pests from entering the home.
- 5. Water Wisely:** Water lawns and gardens early in the morning or late in the evening to prevent evaporation and allow plants to retain moisture. Consider drip irrigation or soaker hoses, which deliver water directly to the roots and help conserve water.
- 6. Keep Fridge and Freezer Full:** Keeping these appliances stocked (even with water jugs) can help them operate more efficiently, which is especially useful during warm months when they may struggle to keep up.

## *Weird, but True!*

A company called Creative Home Engineering specializes in designing hidden rooms and secret passageways that blend seamlessly into your home or office. Some of their creations feature unique activation methods like a secret door that unlocks only when a chessboard sequence is played.



**Ron Spencer Real Estate**  
**2895 Harding Hwy., Lima, OH 45804**

[www.rsre.com](http://www.rsre.com)

**"The Key to Buying or Selling"**

