

Here Comes the Bridal Shower



The bridal shower was an idea started many years ago, by friends and family members, which has turned into a tradition. It was designed to help the bride-to-be with a trousseau that she may not have. Items would be placed in a parasol, and when opened, the gifts would "shower" upon her.

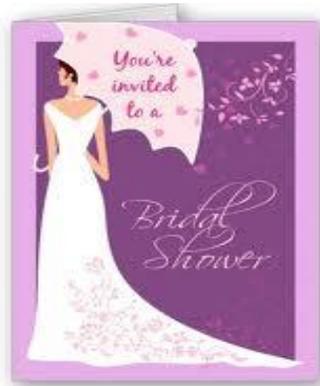
This custom has gone through changes, but the thought behind it remains the same. Whether you are hosting an old fashioned party, or a non-traditional event, there are many ways to incorporate this umbrella theme into your party.

We have created a classy and fun Bridal Shower party to help you express your love and well wishes for the Bride-to-Be. You can use all or part of the party box, or even mix and match from other party boxes, to create a Bridal Shower she will always cherish.



Here Comes the Bridal Shower

Invitations



Who's at the Party?

*Love and Marriage go together and friends make it even more special!
The Bridal Shower Party is designed for the girlfriends and female
family members as a sendoff for the bride-to-be into marriage like only
girls can do.*

*"The times of our life" is the theme for this day
To help the new couple on their happy way
Breakfast at home, lunch in the park
Playtime and fun time from morning 'til dark*

*Filling each second, each minute, each hour
That is our challenge for this bridal shower
We hope you can join us, we hope you'll agree
(Bride's name)..... as lucky as lucky can be!*



However you let people know about your party be sure your invitations include the following information:

- 1. Date*
- 2. Time*
- 3. Location*
- 4. Attire (usually casual dress)*
- 5. Choose a gift that's right for your assigned hour! Your assigned time is: _____." (details inside the party box)*
- 6. RSVP Info (usually 1 week before the party)*

Send your invites a month to three weeks before your event so people have plenty of time to respond and shop. The ideal time for a Bridal Shower is from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm.



Here Comes the Bridal Shower

Menu



Beverages

Champagne Punch with Ice Ring

Cranberry Sparkling Soda

Appetizers

Beef and Asparagus Bundles

Cucumber Roulades

Asian Noodle Salad

Taco Salad Cups

Dessert

Around the Clock Cupcakes



Here Comes the Bridal Shower

Recipes



Beverages

Champagne Punch

Ingredients:

- 1 Cup Vodka*
- 2 Cups Apricot Brandy*
- 2 bottles Champagne or Sparkling Wine*
- 1 bottle Vernor's Ginger Ale*

Directions:

Pour all chilled ingredients into a punch bowl and add heart shaped ice mold to float in punch bowl right before guests arrive. This punch packs a punch so warn guests to go easy.

Ice Ring



2 (12 ounce) cans ginger ale
1/2 cup lemon juice
Orange Slices
Lime Slices
Strawberries, sliced from top to bottom (looks like hearts)
Cherries
Grapes
Melon Balls
Mint Leaves

Mix ginger ale with lemon juice. Pour 2 1/2 cups of the mixture into a 1 quart ring. Freeze.

Arrange desired decorations on top of the ice. Slowly, pour remaining juice mixture over the top so that you don't disturb your decorations. If you are using a mold that is fluted on "top" make sure that you lay the fruit so that it shows best when flipped over. If mold is flat then lay fruit face up so that it shows best when placed in the punch bowl.

Freeze. To unmold, run cold water on the mold until it releases (don't get water in the ice mold)

Float in the top of your punch bowl for a beautiful presentation.

Note 1: The ice rings can be made in advance and stored in the freezer wrapped in plastic and placed in a zip top freezer bag. If you choose to use fresh herbs, know that they will wilt after just a day or two.

Note 2: A silicone bundt pan works beautifully for this. Once the ring is frozen solid, just peel the pan away ... but any water-tight pan or mold will work. Just make sure the ring produced will fit in your punch bowl.

Think Color!



Cranberry Sparkling Soda

3 bottles Cranberry Sparkling Soda (Non-alcoholic)

Appetizers

Beef and Asparagus Bundles



Ingredients:

16 asparagus spears

Horseradish Sauce (recipe below)

2 heads Bibb lettuce, leaves separated

8 thin slices deli roast beef, halved

1 red bell pepper, cut into 16 strips

16 fresh chives, blanched before using to tie bundles



Mustard Horseradish Sauce:

3/4 cup mayonnaise

1 1/2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

1 tablespoon whole-grain mustard

1/2 tablespoon prepared horseradish

2 tablespoons sour cream

Kosher salt

Directions:

Whisk together the mayonnaise, mustards, horseradish, sour cream, and a pinch of salt in a small bowl.

Preparation:

- 1. Snap off and discard tough ends of asparagus. Cut asparagus tips into 3 1/2-inch pieces, reserving any remaining end portions for another use.*
- 2. Cook asparagus in boiling water to cover 1 to 2 minutes or until crisp-tender; drain. Plunge into ice water to stop the cooking process; drain and pat dry with paper towels.*
- 3. Spoon horseradish sauce down center of each lettuce leaf. Arrange 1 roast beef slice, 1 asparagus spear, and 1 red bell pepper strip in each lettuce leaf. Wrap sides of lettuce around roast beef and vegetables, and tie bundles with chives.*



Cucumber Roulades



Ingredients:

1 English cucumber, peeled

1/4 cup Philadelphia Chive & Onion Cream Cheese Product

30 g smoked salmon, thinly sliced, cut into 12 pieces

12 sprigs fresh dill

Preparation:

Cut cucumber into 12 thick slices. Use melon baller to scoop out centre of each. Dry each cucumber piece with a paper towel before filling with cream cheese mixture.

Fill with cream cheese product; top with salmon and dill.

Asian Noodle Salad

Inspired by Jamie Oliver



Ingredients:

1 package Linguine Noodles, cooked and chilled
½ Napa Cabbage, sliced
½ Purple Cabbage, sliced
½ bag Baby Spinach, torn into small pieces
1 Red Bell Pepper, sliced Thin
1 Yellow Bell Pepper, sliced Thin
1 Orange Bell Pepper, thinly Sliced
Chopped Cilantro, up to 1 bunch
3 Scallions, sliced
3 Cucumbers, peeled, seeds removed and cubed
1 can 10 ounce Whole Cashews, lightly toasted in skillet

Dressing Ingredients:

1-2 Mexican or Key Limes, Juiced
8 Tablespoons Olive Oil
8 Tablespoons Soy Sauce
2-3 Tablespoons Sesame Oil
1/3 cups Brown Sugar
3 Tablespoons Fresh Ginger, chopped
2 cloves Garlic, chopped
1 Tablespoon Sriracha Hot Chili Sauce

Directions:

Mix salad ingredients together. Whisk dressing ingredients together and pour over salad. Mix with tongs or hands and serve on a platter.

Note: dressing keeps for up to three days before serving.



Taco Salad Cups



Ingredients:

24 wonton wrappers

1 pound lean ground beef or turkey

1 package (1.25 ounces) taco seasoning mix

2 tablespoons mild taco sauce

1/2 cup chunky Salsa

4 ounces shredded Mexican cheese blend

Sour cream

Cilantro

Pitted ripe olives (optional)

Directions:

Heat the oven to 425 degrees F. Spray the wrapper with olive oil spray on each side and press the wonton wrappers into 24 (1 1/2-inch) mini muffin-pan cups. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until lightly golden brown. Set aside.



Cook the beef/turkey in a 10-inch skillet over medium-high heat until well browned, stirring often to break up the meat. Pour off any fat. Stir in the taco seasoning mix and taco sauce.

Spoon the beef mixture into the wonton cups. Top with the salsa, cheese and a cilantro leaf.

Garnish with sour cream and olives, if desired. Serve immediately with additional salsa.

Dessert

Around the Clock Cupcakes



Ingredients:

*1 box of Bride's favorite cake mix
5-6 colors (gel) for frosting
4oz butter, room temperature
1 1/2 cups confectioners sugar
2 tablespoons milk
1 tube black gel icing (for numbers)*

Have butter and milk at room temperature. Place butter in small bowl of electric mixer and beat until butter is as white as possible.

Gradually add about half the sifted confectioners' sugar, beating constantly. Beat in the remaining sugar.



Mixture should be smooth and easy to spread with a spatula. Add extra milk or sugar until frosting is a spreadable consistency.

Divide the frosting into 5-6 bowls and color each bowl with a different color. Frost the cupcakes with different base colors. Write the 4 main numbers for the face of the clock 12, 3, 6, 9 on each cupcake. Pipe the hands of the clock to different times for each cupcake to match the theme of the Around the Clock Shower. (see picture)

Place cupcakes on a cupcake stand or tiered cake plates.

Here Comes the Bridal Shower Decorations



Creating the Mood

Around the Clock Bridal Gifts Theme



This very popular theme for a shower is great because it gives the guest guidance about a gift and the bride will receive a wide variety of gifts. It



also turns the gift giving into a game with lots of laughs and stories.

Be sure to include in the invitations to the guests, a time of day, around the clock, as their gift “time”. The guest is then expected to buy a present for the bride relating to that time of day.

For example, 7am could be a travel alarm clock, yoga video or shower accessories ~ 8am could be a toaster, juicer or coffee mugs and gourmet coffee ~ 12pm could be an insulated designer lunch bag or local restaurant gift certificates ~ 3pm could be a selection of teas and cookie cutters or a cake stand ~ 6pm could be cookware or place mats and napkins ~ 10pm could be lingerie, lotions or bed linen.

Front Door Décor - *Purchase an umbrella in a color that is the most neutral color of the theme colors. Use a small block of floral foam that has been soaked in water and is moist but is not dripping for the flowers. Insert flowers of varying colors and heights that match the theme into the floral foam and place it in the umbrella. Tie a ribbon around the lower part of the umbrella and hang it from the front door.*



Centerpieces - For the flower arrangements on the food, dessert and gift tables, purchase 2 dozen flowers from a wholesale florist or Costco so they are more affordable. Use a short vase so that the guests can see all the food options across the table. A small round or **square vase** from a local discount retailer like Marshalls, Ross or TJ Maxx will have these. Cut the stems of the flowers so that only a small amount of the stem with the flower is above the edge of the vase. This creates a tight cluster of flowers and a few leaves and is very dramatic and elegant.

Umbrellas and Sparkles -

Purchase several umbrellas that match or co-ordinate with the one on the front door. Hang crystal tear drop or **diamonds** from the outer ends of the umbrella. This will symbolize the showering of love and good wishes for the bride.

Use **tall aluminum buckets** (you can spray paint to match the theme colors or leave them natural) and place a block of floral foam in the bottom. You will use this to insert the flowers and the umbrella into for the floral arrangement. Place an odd number of small votives around the table top. Sprinkle colored glass vase gems and "**diamonds**" over the table top.



Rehearsal Bouquet



A bride shouldn't walk down the aisle at the wedding rehearsal empty-handed. This bouquet, made out of ribbons from the bridal shower, is a much more practical accessory. A bridesmaid can be assigned to collect ribbons from shower gifts.

To make the bouquet, draw a circle on a piece of heavy card stock with a compass or trace around a bowl turned upside down. Cut out the circle, scalloping the edges. Cut a 1-inch X in center. Fold each piece of ribbon in half, and make a knot in the middle of the folded ribbon. Thread the ends from the top down through the X until the knots rest on the surface of the card stock. (show a bridesmaid how to do this before the shower)

After the shower, finish off the bouquet by gathering the ribbon ends together, and, starting just below the card stock, bind them together by wrapping them tightly with an additional ribbon to create a 4-inch handle. Secure the binding ribbon with hot glue. Trim ribbon ends to various lengths, then finish by trimming the ends at an angle or by cutting notches into each end. Take the Rehearsal Bouquet to the wedding rehearsal and present it to the Bride. Another Great photo for her album!



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Music



Bridal shower music can help create the atmosphere you're trying to achieve. Choose selections that will enhance your party theme and ideas. Take into account the bride-to-be and also the age range of those invited. Weave Love/Marriage theme music with favorites of the brides to get a good variety of music everyone should enjoy.

Playing soft background music is perfect so that you don't overpower any conversations the guests are having. Target has a wonderful selection of music CDs to pick from. They are very reasonably priced and we have never been disappointed by their quality. Some other favorites are listed below or you can always check iTunes under Romance music. Start a playlist on Pandora you can revisit whenever you are in a romantic mood!

A few classics to spark your imagination:

Albums

- 1. Amore, Romanza - Andrea Bocelli*
- 2. Bridal Shower Music - Hit Crew*
- 3. As Time Goes By - Great American Songbook Vol 1 & 2 - Rod Stewart*

Singles

- 1. Unforgettable - Nat King Cole and Natalie Cole*



2. *Unchained Melody* - *Righteous Brothers*
3. *You Make Me Feel Brand New* - *Stylistics*
4. *Have I Told You Lately That I Love You* - *Rod Stewart*
5. *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* - *Queen*
6. *Everything I Do (I Do For You)* - *Bryan Adams*
7. *When a Man Loves a Woman* - *Michael Bolton or Percy Sledge*
8. *Always and Forever* - *Heatwave*
9. *You're the One That I Want* - *(Grease) Olivia Newton John*
10. *Power of Love* - *Jennifer Rush*
11. *Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours* - *Stevie Wonder*
12. *Lady* - *Kenny Rogers*
13. *This Will Be (an Everlasting Love)* - *Natalie Cole*
14. *Endless Love* - *Lionel Richie and Diana Ross*
15. *I Just Call You Mine* - *Martina McBride*
16. *Love Me Tender, Can't Help Falling In Love With You* - *Elvis Presley*
17. *My Heart Will Go On and On (Titanic Theme)* - *Celine Dion*
18. *Your Song* - *Elton John*
19. *I Will Always Love You* - *Whitney Houston*
20. *Breathe, The way You Love Me, This Kiss* - *Faith Hill*
21. *From This Moment On* - *Shania Twain*



Here Comes the Bridal Shower

Activities



A Walk Down Memory Lane

This is a great way for people to learn more about the bride, her friends and family. Lots of laughs, some loving tears and more memories will be created with this game. Have everyone write down their memory and begin sharing the stories over appetizers and cocktails.

***The Idea:** The bride did what? With whom?*

***What You Need:** Pen and paper*

***How to Play:** Hand out pieces of paper and have each guest write a memory of a great time had with the bride, but don't write your name or initials on it! The bridesmaids will collect the pieces of paper and take the bride on a bit of a memory trip. All the guests will have to guess who ... snuck out of the house to meet the bride at a high-school party; who introduced the bride to the groom and how; and more. Just remember to keep the stories appropriate for the whole group (Moms, Grandmothers and Aunts) and don't tell any stories the bride has told you in confidence!*



Here Comes the Bridal Shower

Favors



Bridal shower favors are meant to be a small gift of love and a token of appreciation for the bride's dearest friends and a lasting memory of the special day.

*Pretty and practical, this little box of refreshing mint candies from **Beau-coup** will become a girl's best friend. Tuck one in your purse and you think of the bride every time you pop one in your mouth. Choose from exclusive designs created just for bridal showers and bachelorette parties and customize with a matching colored tin and your own personal message on the label. Even pick the candy filling inside:*

- **Candy Mint** - *A nice mild peppermint candy that your guests will love. These mints are shiny and elegant with slightly chewy centers. A hit with everyone from grandparents to young kids.*
- **Breath Mint** - *An elegant pastel green peppermint candy that looks similar to our candy mints. Mints are shiny and pearl-like in appearance with a slightly soft center and a strong mint flavor.*
- **Mint Gum** - *A gum version of our mints, with fresh peppermint taste.*



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Ready, Set, Go



The best way to have a stress free party and feel like a guest at your own party is to plan ahead. Here is a step by step party plan that will have you confident and excited about your own party. Remember, you are the Life of the Party and your guests will follow your lead.

One Month Before

- 1. Choose the date for your party. Make your guest list and send out invitations (usually 6-8 weeks before the wedding). Our **Party Planner** will help you get all your ideas for the party together.*
- 2. Decide what menu recipes you will use for your party. Check on what serving and decorating items you have on hand and what items you will need to purchase. If they are custom items like the Mint Party Favors, order them now. Use our **Party Plan Menu** to help you plan.*
- 3. Consider the areas for the party and any touch ups that may be needed.*

One Week Before

- 4. Make a list of all accessories, serving pieces and tableware you will need. Check for plates, tablecloth and napkins, glassware and utensils*



from your own collection that will tie into your color scheme or add to list of items to purchase.

5. Make sure your music sound system is in good working order and make your playlist/burn CDs and load iPod.

6. Shop for any non-food type items. Party favors, paper and pens for Memory Game, Rehearsal Bouquet and decorations like umbrellas, etc.

7. Make Ice Ring for punch bowl.

1-2 Days Before

*1. Shop for all food items (2 days before). Create a shopping list that will make it so much easier to plan and shop for your party. Our customized **Shopping List** will help you get organized.*

2. Buy the flowers and make the centerpieces for food, dessert and gift tables and front door decor. (1 day before)

3. Chill all ingredients for the punch and non-alcoholic drinks.

4. Make Mustard Horseradish Sauce.

5. Make Asian Salad Dressing and chill.

6. Make and decorate Around the Clock Cupcakes.

7. Bake the Wonton wrappers and store in air tight container.

8. Make taco filling and chill (to reheat before serving)

Day of the Party

1. Pick a time you must begin getting yourself ready and stick to it.

2. Set up the bar area for punch bowl and Cranberry Soda with glasses



and napkins.

- 3. Assemble Asian Salad and refrigerate.*
- 4. Prepare Cucumber Roulades and refrigerate.*
- 5. Assemble Beef and Asparagus Bundles and refrigerate.*
- 6. Set up cupcake stand and party favor basket on dessert table with plates, napkins and forks.*
- 7. Reheat taco meat and fill the Taco Salad Cups and garnish.*
- 8. Review lists to make sure everything is ready.*
- 9. Get dressed in your party attire.*
- 10. Begin the music and have music playing the entire time.*
- 11. Place all appetizers and cupcakes on their tables ready to serve.*
- 12. Place punch in bowl and unmold Ice Ring. Place ice bucket for Cranberry Soda on table.*

Once Guests Arrive

- 1. Greet your guests and show them to the gift and punch tables.*
- 2. Give each guest a slip of paper and explain the Memory Game. Have them take their time writing down their memory but let them know it will be read while eating.*
- 3. Mingle and chat with friends. Introduce people that have not met before and make the connection of how they know each other.*
- 4. Don't forget to take pictures!*
- 5. Welcome guests to the food table.*



6. *Read the Memory Game stories while having appetizers.*
7. *Open gifts and have one person take notes of what the gift is and who it is from.*
8. *Have one of the bridesmaids make the “Bouquet” from the ribbons off the gifts that the bride will use as her “Bouquet” at the wedding rehearsal.*
9. *Remind the guests to take their party favor and thank them all for making the Brides shower so special!*

