Home Zone: Gracious buffet dining made easy

by Maggie_Reed

It's that awkward party moment.

A BETTER BUFFET - Dining by the fountain with no place to set your plate? With the Wine 'n Dine Buffet Set by Metrokane you can easily carry, and enjoy, your food and drink with one hand. CNS Photo by Paul Nasri. CONEIVORE - The Coneivore takes the pain out of picking up pine cones and other yard debris. CNS Photo courtesy of Coneivore. You have a plate, a drink and only two hands. How do you manage mingling, eating and drinking all at the same time?

So much food, so much drink, so little space to set your glass down to eat from your plate. And trying to balance a wine glass on your plate can have disastrous results.

Even if you can juggle it all, how about when you put your plate and glass down somewhere? How do you identify them later?

One very practical solution is Metrokane's Wine 'n Dine Buffet Set. The unusual triangular plate has a custom-fit space for the glass to prevent spills.

Each set includes six multicolored plates and wine glasses that are translucent so guests can easily identify their sets. The plates are made of clear acrylic with a molded rim. Glasses are molded of high-clarity polycarbonate. Both are break-resistant and dishwasher safe.

The set retails for about $25. For more information, visit www.metrokane.com.

PICKING UP PINE CONES

Stop the stooping. Here's an easier way to pick up pine cones in your yard.

This device eliminates the bending and reaching when you need to get unwanted cones out of your yard. And it's quick.

The Coneivore is a 36-inch handled tube that users simply plunge over the top of an object, snatching it off the ground and into the tube.

Not only does it prevent the user from having to bend or rake, it also prevents sharp objects from pricking fingers.

The unit also comes with two different sized cone caps, uniquely designed to accommodate pine cones of different sizes. The slotted cap allows cones of 2 inches to 7 inches to slip into the tube. Typically, 15 to 18 cones fit in the tube. Once it's full, just dump it out.

The Coneivore weighs less than 2 1/2 pounds, and there is no assembly required.

Although designed for pine cones, the Coneivore can also be used to pick up apples, pears, walnuts, magnolia pods, chestnuts and more.

The Coneivore retails for $35. For more information, call 888-CONEWIZ (266-3949) or visit www.coneivore.com.

CORD SAFETY

Outdated window coverings pose a strangulation risk to children in any room of the house, not just the bedroom.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, since 1990 more than 200 infants have died from accidentally strangling in window cords.

The window-covering industry has redesigned all corded products and developed safety standards such as breakthrough safety tassels and continuous cord loops to help prevent an accident.

For those homes with older coverings, the Window Covering Safety Council will provide tassels, cord stops, tie-down devices and how-to instructions free of charge to anyone.

For more information, call 800-506-4636 or visit www.windowcoverings.org.

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