

ICE CARVINGS

The Ice Sculpture is the highlight of any buffet, the artistic touch, the focal point. Ice can be carved in any shape, size or figure that fits the theme or occasion. For example, for Christmas there should be a Santa Claus, for an anniversary, a Heart.

The essentials for Ice Carvings are :

1. A 100-300 pound block of Ice, 40 inches high by 20 inches wide by 10 inches thick. Blocks like this can be purchased.
2. A pair of Ice tongs for moving ends while handling the Ice.
3. An Ice shaver with 3 to 6 prongs, used to curve out the details and do the small cuttings on the block of Ice.
4. An Ice pick, to split the block into smaller pieces.
5. A hand saw, used to remove large cuts of Ice or to make rough outlines.
6. Chisels ranging in size from ½ to 2 inches.
7. An electric chain saw, when working with this type of saw, it is important to have the saw grounded to prevent accidents.
8. A good pair of gloves which have metal finger tips to prevent accidents.
9. A template, made on graph, of the shape of the Ice carving that is to be made.
10. Salt.

The best temperature for Ice carving is 28 degrees F or less. An Ice block will melt at the rate of ½ inch or 1 inch per hour at room temperature.

Such Ice carvings should have a base that is at least six inches high. In other words, when planning this carving, deduct six inches from the total height for the base. Be sure to draw the template accurately.

If a piece of Ice breaks off, dip each broken edge into salt and press pieces back together for a few minutes, the length of time will depend upon the size and weight of the broken pieces that will freeze together and hold.

How to Display the Ice Carving on the Buffet:

1. The table for the carving must be sturdy and strong enough to support the weight of the Ice.
2. The carved Ice block should be placed in a specially constructed metal pan, wider than the base of the carving, wooden blocks should first be placed in the bottom of the pan and the carving should rest surely on the top of the block.
3. Coloured rotating lights and newly designed display units can produce a dramatic effect, this is especially effective when the lights themselves cannot be seen.
4. Coloured Ice can also produce a dramatic effect.
5. The Ice sculpture should be placed on a rotating turn table.
6. The pan under the Ice sculpture can be decorated with a linen cloth, flowers, ferns and other decorative materials.
