

Hosting Holiday Guests?

Create a Great Experience for Everyone



Hosting guests over the holidays can be as stressful as traveling. There's often pressure to create a picture-perfect experience for your guests, whether they're staying overnight or for a week. By planning ahead and keeping them informed, you'll reduce stress and create a fun, festive experience for everyone.

MAKE YOUR GUESTS FEEL WELCOME

- Clear space in the coat closet for their jackets and shoes. If they're staying in a room with a closet, make sure there is enough space for them to hang their clothes if they wish.
- Create toiletry baskets that include a toothbrush, toothpaste, tissues, lotion and soaps. You can also add warm slippers or a good book you think they may enjoy.
- If your guests are new to the area, or if they'll have to entertain themselves while you're working, set brochures for fun local activities in their room, as well as a list of local cafes, restaurants, shopping centers, theaters, etc.
- Print an information sheet that includes the Wi-Fi password and other essential household information.
- If you're expecting pets, purchase extra treats or a fun toy to make them feel at ease.
- If you're expecting young children, store fragile items and heirlooms somewhere safe, install electrical outlet covers, etc.

KEEP EVERYONE ENTERTAINED

- Create a fun tradition, such as making cookies or holiday decorations, to foster a sense of togetherness.
- Stock a snack and drink cabinet for guests to help themselves to when they get hungry or thirsty. Purchase an extra case of bottled water and store it in the garage until needed.
- Stock up on fun board games and family movies for guests to enjoy.
- Get everyone involved in meal and party prep. Give guests who are staying with you small tasks to help them stay engaged in the action.

STOCK UP ON EXTRAS

- Stock up on throw blankets and pillows so everyone is comfortable.
- Store extra toiletries, such as soap, towels, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper and paper towels, in a hallway closet where guests have access.
- Purchase muffins, croissants, juice and fruit to have on hand for breakfast.

Manage expectations. Misunderstandings occur when expectations aren't met. Let your guests know what to look forward to. If you've planned activities to do together, give them a tentative itinerary and let them know what time to be ready. Conversely, if they like to explore on their own during their visit, let them know before they arrive. When guests have choices, they feel more at home.

