

**ETIQUETTE AROUND THE
WORLD:**

HOW TO HOST GUESTS FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES



**BY JERRY
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Abstract

Planning to host guests at your home in Perth? Hosting can be a daunting task, often viewed as one of the most challenging and complex responsibilities. From meal preparation to ensuring a welcoming environment, it requires meticulous planning and effort. Discover practical tips and insights to simplify the process and make your hosting experience enjoyable and stress-free."

1. Introduction

This PDF offers essential insights into multicultural hospitality. This guide helps you navigate cultural differences, ensuring a warm and respectful environment for international guests. Learn practical tips on etiquette, traditions, and customs to create a welcoming atmosphere that celebrates Perth's diverse community, making every guest feel valued and at home.

2. Modern Party Etiquette for Hosts and Guests

Invitations, seating cards and cell phones, oh my! Navigating modern party etiquette can be tricky for both hosts and guests. These 10 do's and don'ts should help clear up everything from what to bring (try a book instead of flowers) to those pesky details (t.p., olive pit bowls) you will not want to forget.

1. Do take invites and responses seriously. If you are doing the inviting, be courteous and extend those invites, whether paper, digital or over the phone, with enough time for people to plan accordingly. Be specific and give your guests some clue as to the level of formality you expect, and how long and where the party will be. Including a GPS-friendly address is a thoughtful touch.

As a guest, it's your responsibility to RSVP as soon as you can. And if your plans change later, it's courteous to let your host know instead of simply not showing up when they were expecting you. The same goes even if the invitation was casual — it's generally better to overcommunicate than let something go unsaid.

2. Don't arrive early. Of course you should try to arrive at a party close to the start time (within 15 minutes is optimal) but whatever you do, do not show up early! Your hosts, undoubtedly feeling a bit frantic, will have their hands full as it is with last-minute cleaning and cooking; they do not need you showing up before they are ready especially not with flowers that need a vase.

3. Do come bearing gifts, but don't make more work for your hosts. A cool coffee table book, a small bouquet of flowers already in a vase, a basket of fresh fruit from your own tree, a nice candle, good-smelling soap, pretty tea towels ... these are all things a host will love you for bringing. Your host will not, however, necessarily love having to scramble around in the kitchen for a container to plunk your plastic-wrapped flowers in.

4. Do offer to help. Of course, even better than not making more work for your host is to actually help get dinner on the table. Instead of saying, "Can I help with anything?" which sounds rather vague and invites the other person to say no, try saying, "What can I do to help?"

5. Do offer an alternative to alcohol. Not everyone drinks alcohol, so even if you're making the most delicious specialty cocktails ever, provide an equally festive nonalcoholic option. Set it out along with

the other drinks, so guests can help themselves to what they want without having to make a special request. If you are making a big-batch cocktail or alcoholic punch, make sure it's labeled.



6. Do provide bowls for pits, tails and shells. No one likes hovering at a party, cupping a yucky olive pit or shrimp tail in hand because there is no obvious place to put it. Spare your guests that awkwardness by placing plenty of little bowls near the food in question — and it wouldn't hurt to set an example by being the first to dispose of something. If you are the guest, try to scope out a place to stash your trash before you grub.

7. Do assign seats at a large dinner. At smaller gatherings it's not a big deal, but figuring out where to sit at a long table can be daunting — assigning seats will help guest feel more at ease. Splitting up couples and seating quieter folks next to more boisterous guests will create a livelier party.

8. Don't use your phone. Very casual, mingling situations like big cocktail parties and open houses are a bit more forgiving when it comes to sneaking a peek at your phone, but as a rule you should keep your devices stowed, with ringers off, at parties of all types. And at dinner parties? Don't even think about it.

If you have a situation where you really must be reachable by phone, the polite thing to do is simply be upfront with your hosts and the other guests. Apologize sincerely, briefly explain why you need to take that call or respond to that text, and then excuse yourself from the table while you do so.

9. Do keep the bathroom well stocked. It's one of those things we all hope never happens (cue scary music) ... the party that ran out of toilet paper! Make sure your bathroom is stocked with plenty of t.p., soap and hand towels before your party. While you're at it, put a plunger, a scented candle and matches in there too.

10. Don't freak out over spills. Whether you are the host or guest in Perth, try to deal with spills and other upsets quickly, calmly and with good humor. Having a stain-fighting kit on hand in advance would

be helpful. And if you are the spiller, do offer to pay for cleaning or a replacement if you caused serious damage.

3. Holiday-Party Etiquette Mistakes You're Probably Making—and How to Avoid Them

Sure, you know the big missteps to avoid at the annual Christmas bash in Perth. But what about these subtle holiday-party etiquette mistakes?

Don't be that guest

'Tis the season for holiday parties! Whether you're attending a friend's bash, a company event or your family's annual cookie exchange, these parties are a ton of fun ... and also littered with landmines. You have to consider what to wear, what to eat, who to talk to (and what to talk about), what gifts to bring and all the other little details of holiday-party etiquette.

Bringing a gift that requires work

If your host went to the effort of arranging a holiday party in Perth, it's polite to bring a small token of gratitude. You can offer to bring something to help with the party (ask beforehand what they might need), or buy a hostess gift under \$20. The key, according to etiquette expert Bonnie Tsai, is to bring something that won't create more work for your host—especially not at the critical time when they are trying to welcome all their guests. For example, cut flowers in a basket or vase are a lovely gift, but cut flowers in plastic will require the host to find a vase, fill it with water, cut the stems and arrange the flowers. It's not a huge deal, but if you can avoid causing the host a little extra work, why not?

Ignoring the dress code

Think back to the last holiday party you went to and what people wore. Chances are, anyone that sticks out in your memory is likely due to the fact that they were inappropriately dressed. This could mean anything from showing up to a formal event in shorts and flip-flops or to an office party in revealing club wear. "You want to be remembered—but not for this reason," says Valerie Sokolosky, author of the comprehensive etiquette guide *Do It Right*. This is also true of holiday parties that have a fun dress code as part of the theme, like wearing all white for a "winter white" party or donning an ugly sweater.

Do this instead: If the host lists a dress code, follow it. And make sure you understand the difference between business casual, cocktail, semi-formal, formal and black tie. FYI, it's better to be slightly overdressed than underdressed, so if you're unsure, go with a nice pair of slacks and a button-down shirt or sweater, Sokolosky says. This outfit works regardless of gender, but for women, you also can't go wrong with a little black dress. Accessories, like a nice watch, jacket or jewelry, can upgrade a basic outfit to a party outfit. (For both genders, avoid wrinkly items, clothing made from cheap-looking fabrics and anything that is too revealing for the occasion.)

Asking the host to cater to your dietary needs

Many people in Perth are on specialized diets—some by choice and others due to allergies or health conditions—but if you fit into this category, the responsibility is on you to make sure you have something to eat, Sokolosky says. Thoughtful hosts often ask in advance about allergies or other needs (or they may already know about your dietary concerns), but unless they offer, don't ask for special

accommodations. The one exception is if you have a life-threatening allergy; in that case, you should alert the host well in advance to ensure your safety.



Do this instead: If it's a potluck, offer to bring a dish you know you can eat, Sokolosky says. Otherwise, eat what works for you and skip what doesn't—no commentary about your keto or vegan diet necessary. If you're concerned about not having enough food options, have a snack or meal beforehand. And under no circumstances should you comment about what other people are or are not eating or how limited the menu is.

Dishing up food in unhygienic ways

Many holiday parties in Perth involve buffets or spreads of cocktail snacks so you can eat while mingling, but this convenience can lead to some holiday-party etiquette offenses. Double-dipping, using your fingers to pick up food (even something you might consider a finger food), sniffing an item to decide if you want to try it, using a serving spoon for one dish to serve a different one, licking a serving utensil for a taste—these things have never been polite, but since the pandemic, they have become even bigger etiquette offenses because they can spread illness. “You don't want to be the one spreading germs at the holiday party,” Willard says frankly.

Do this instead: Remember that you're not eating at your home, so you should be extra mindful of contaminating food that others will eat. Use the serving utensils provided, and if you want to taste something, add a small portion to your plate.

Taking and posting pictures of others without their permission

Among the highlights of many holiday parties are group pictures that provide happy memories year-round. However, not everyone is comfortable with their pictures (or pictures of their children) being taken or shared online. “Recently at an event I was in charge of, someone was pulled into a picture without being asked, and the reaction was swift and very testy, causing a momentary break in the party,” Willard recounts. Maybe the person didn't like the way they looked, didn't tell someone close to them that they were attending the event or were engaging in work-inappropriate activity they didn't

want on social media. Or maybe they just highly value their privacy. “The fact is that their reason isn’t your business,” Willard says, “and it is not for you to make that decision for them.”

Do this instead: “Always ask permission when taking photos of other people, and ask permission again before posting them on social media,” Willard says. Remember: It takes only one out-of-context snap shared on social media to ruin a professional reputation. Even if you’re posting it in a well-meaning way, a person may still experience negative consequences from it.

Not following the theme

Is the gathering a white elephant party? Christmas karaoke? A cookie swap? There are many themes for holiday parties, and if your host has chosen one, it’s polite to go along with the fun. “Sitting out and not participating is rude to the host and may make other guests uncomfortable,” says Sokolosky. You don’t have to do anything you really don’t want to do, of course, but make an effort to stay on theme and engaged in the activities.

Do this instead: “Play along, even if you think it’s a little silly,” Sokolosky says. “These traditions are part of what makes the holidays fun!” If you really can’t bring yourself to don the ugly sweater or have a good attitude about it, then consider sending your regrets and not attending. “Don’t be the person complaining about things other people are enjoying,” she adds.

Helping out a little too much

When it comes to holiday-party etiquette in Perth, there’s a fine line between being helpful and overstepping, he notes. For instance, offering to help with the dishes is kind, but simply taking over and cleaning may not be what the host needs or wants. Similarly, things like going into the kitchen to bring out food if you see the buffet running low, cutting and serving dessert before it’s time and answering other guests’ questions may step on someone else’s toes. After all, a good host will take care of those things. “You may be accidentally causing more work for the host,” Willard explains, “or it could be that they don’t want it to appear as if they need help or that they are not doing enough.”

Do this instead: Usually, a host will be happy to have some additional help, but the polite thing to do is to ask first and accept whatever they say. “If someone says, ‘Please don’t clean up—we’ve got it,’ let that be the end of it, and enjoy the night,” Willard advises.

Not reading the room when telling jokes

What brand of humor is appropriate depends entirely on the group, the venue, the type of holiday party and how well the guests know one another. This is why it’s important to read the room before telling any joke that might be considered edgy. “You don’t know other people’s level of comfort or their personal tastes,” Tsai says. “If you’re unsure how a joke will land, it’s better to skip it than risk offending someone.

Do this instead: Avoid hot-button topics like religion, politics and sex, even in a joking way. “Keep it lighthearted and happy,” Tsai says. “And remember, humor should never be at the expense of someone else.”

Gossiping at the office holiday party

Generally speaking, work parties are for having fun and networking. And while many of these people are your friends, you need to remember that they’re your work friends. That line often gets blurred, but the biggest rule here is that holiday parties aren’t for gossiping, whether that’s about the latest suspected office romance or who’s competing for the big promotion. You don’t know who’s listening,

and something you say could get you in hot water come Monday morning. “Don’t say anything about another co-worker that you wouldn’t say in front of them,” Sokolosky says.



Beyond that, people don’t want to work at a party. “Anything that makes people work off the clock, even just asking for a project update or asking a quick question, should be avoided,” she adds.

Do this instead: Focus on getting to know your co-workers as people. Ask them about their interests (while steering clear of these polite questions that are actually rude), or if the party has activities, play a fun game together. Lots of bonding can happen over a dart board, pool table or white elephant exchange—and the things you do off-hours at the party reflect on you as an employee and co-worker the other 364 days of the year, for better or worse.

Blocking in another car when parking

Holiday parties often mean lots of guests, and if they’re being hosted at someone’s home, you might encounter a tricky parking situation. But don’t just park wherever you can with the intention of dealing with it later. Common parking blunders—such as blocking in another guest, double parking, blocking the neighbor’s driveway or parking somewhere you shouldn’t—are frustrating to other guests, and they can even lead to heated conflicts or fines. “I’ve seen it too many times,” Willard says. “Parking problems can make a great night turn sour quickly and end the party on a bad note.” In some cases, like parking on a blind corner, they can even make things incredibly dangerous.

Do this instead: Be considerate when parking, and follow the rules. “Lots of holiday parties happen in people’s homes, and many neighborhoods have specific rules regarding parking,” says Willard. “If you’re unsure where to park, call the host in advance and ask.” You might also want to consider carpooling with other guests or taking an Uber to circumvent potential problems.

4. Are You Always the Designated Host? Here's How to Finally Enjoy the Party Yourself

Take the stress out of being a host with these simple tips. Plus, how to be a good guest (hint: arrive on time).

Are you the go-to friend or family member designated to host any party, holiday, dinner, or big game in Perth? Maybe you love it just as much as Monica Geller and can't bear the thought of someone else hosting an event, or maybe you only say yes because you feel obligated. Hosting can be fun, but it can also be stressful and a load of work. To help alleviate some of the pressure while hosting a memorable party, we talked with hospitality professionals who preach the importance of preparation and being present. And if you're lucky enough to always be the guest, there are even a few ways you can make the event easier for your gracious host.

Make It Special

Neillie Butler, founder and owner of Mariée Ami, an event planning, production, and design firm, says she can't help but take ideas she's picked up in her professional entertaining career and use them in her own home.

Preparation Is Key

Matilda Reuter Engle, proprietor of Middleburg Hospitality and general manager of Glenstone Gardens and Red Fox Inn & Tavern, says preparation is the most important element of a gathering.

"It takes time and effort to distinguish who your guests are, what preferences they have, and how you can best accommodate them," Engle says. "Once you have an understanding of the event you'd like to host, then you can more easily choreograph the flow of the evening, the design and decor, and the culinary details."

Have Supplies on Hand

Being prepared doesn't just mean the day of—having supplies on hand makes it simple to throw together a last-minute tablescape that looks like you've been planning it for months. Butler has a party closet that's stocked with her curated-over-the-years collection of placemats, glassware, vases, plates, tablecloths, and napkins. When a party arises, even on a weeknight, she can simply walk into her closet and choose her table decor in a matter of minutes.

Drink Details

A great bar setup for impromptu cocktails on the patio or by the fire is another essential to stress-free hosting. Have something at the ready for your guests, whether chilled wine or a vodka soda.

Butler points out that guests will most likely follow your lead—so if you're having a cocktail, they will also probably opt to have one. Most guests don't want to feel like they are causing a hassle, so if you appear that you already have ingredients ready for a particular drink, your guests will feel comfortable saying yes to your offer. For non-alcoholic drinkers, don't let tap water be their only option. Have sparkling water and cut fruit set out by glasses for an easy but special touch everyone can enjoy.



Not a Chef? Don't Sweat It

Just because you're not a pro (or even a semi-pro) in the kitchen, doesn't mean you can't host a fantastic dinner party or event. Butler herself finds it ironic that she loves to entertain but "can't even boil a pot of water." She suggests using a pick-up or delivery service for the food portion of the party if you don't feel comfortable cooking yourself.

Attention to Detail

A go-to playlist can make all the difference, as music sets the mood just as much as decor or food. "Having the right music playing when people walk in sets the tone," Butler says.

To avoid confusion and unease for both your guests and yourself, have a game plan of where you'd like everyone to sit for dinner. For example, if not everyone can fit at the dining room table, make sure to direct some of the guests to your other seating area so that no one feels without a seat. If you have the counter space, arrange food family-style on platters in the kitchen and let guests arrange their own plates before finding their seats, alleviating the stress of preparing anyone's plates for them and saving room on the beautiful table you've set. These gentle directions can sometimes feel bossy to the host but are usually much appreciated by guests.

Follow Mother Nature's Lead

When in doubt, stay seasonal and look to nature to indicate what details you might need to provide for the comfort of guests. For example, if it's wintertime, be sure to place extra seating around the fire or have a warm drink ready as guests arrive. In the summertime, invest in tents if you need extra shade, and be sure to indicate how guests should dress for the occasion, pool party or not. Anticipating these needs and adding thoughtful details are what make your hospitality most memorable.

Be at Ease

Strive to create an atmosphere where both the host and guests feel at-ease. "At work, everything has to be perfect, because I get paid to make it perfect. But when I'm at home, the napkins don't have to

match the tablecloth and the meal doesn't have to be super fancy," says Engle. "'Just make intentional choices to pull it all together and give your guests a fun experience' is always my go-to motto."

Wear Casual Attire

And while it might not be the first thing that comes to mind when preparing to host, Butler notes the importance of footwear—stating that she always reaches for a casual slide rather than a high heel or anything too fancy.

"If I have friends over and they see a perfectly set table, hear music playing, and a cocktail ready for them to grab when they walk in, I don't want them to think 'Oh my gosh I could never have Neillie over to my own home', so being casual in my attire relaxes them and gives the appearance that I'm not trying too hard," she says.

Clean Later

Don't stress about dishes and cleanup; there will be time for that once everyone leaves. To make guests feel as comfortable as possible, urge them to simply leave their plates at the table when they're done eating, assuring them that you can just pick them up later. Move the conversation to a sitting room or, better yet, outside to enjoy dessert or an after-dinner drink. This way, guests don't feel like a burden and you get to enjoy time with your guests instead of doing dishes.

Enjoy Yourself

As the host in Perth, Engle says it's important to remember to engage with your guests and still enjoy their company. "Most often, you are part of the reason why they are attending, so don't get too wrapped up in the details that you forget that your presence is part of the overall experience. You set the tone for the event, inviting laughter and connection; that's part of the artistry of hosting."

Hosts set the tone of the entire party—have a drink (if you so choose), dress casually, and have a relaxed attitude. Guests will only enjoy a party as much as the host does. Remember to let loose and have fun yourself!

5. Do's And Don'ts Of Holiday Hosting

Are you hosting friends and family this holiday season in Perth? It can be both exciting and challenging for you as a host. From preparing delicious meals to cleaning and decking up a house, you have to juggle between all the tasks and leave a great impression on guests. However, many hosts overspend on food, gifts and decorations. They even forget to clean up the important areas and regret it later. If you are planning for a holiday hosting, keep the following do's and don'ts in mind and become a great host. This guide will help you avoid making mistakes while keeping you relaxed and optimistic.

Do's

Do Plan In Advance For A Stress-Free Hosting

Whether preparing for expert vacate cleaning Perth or a holiday hosting, thorough planning can help you stay relaxed and determined. It is always good to begin planning as early as possible and create a proper list of tasks with a set timeline.



Do Clean Your House Thoroughly

Holiday Hosting is the perfect occasion to show your beautiful house to friends and family. It should reflect your personality and passion, and thus, maintaining a sparkling clean and organised living space becomes imperative in the to-do list of holiday hosting. So, remove dust, dirt, stains, grime, mould and mildew from different surfaces, and give an old house a clean look with perfection.

Do Create A Cosy Environment For Guests

To be a great host, make sure you deck up your house in the most decent manner. You can use beautiful festive decors, scented candles, fresh flowers and soft lighting to give your guests a comfortable and cosy environment.

Set Your Food And Drink Menu In Advance

Make sure you create a diverse menu when hosting a holiday party at home in Perth. It should meet the different dietary preferences of your guests. Do this in advance to arrange everything and make space in your pantry accordingly.

Be Careful Of Dietary Restrictions

When setting up your menu, check with your guests about specific allergies or dietary restrictions. Labelling your dishes with ingredients is good if someone has serious food allergies.

Do Stock Up On Toiletries

There is no rocket science behind a great holiday host. You just need to closely monitor petty things, including stocking up on soap, toilet paper, extra toothpaste, towels, etc. Having a surplus of essential items will help you reduce stress and simplify the entire process.

Do Delegate Tasks

Instead of managing everything alone, it is good to ask your family and friends to help you with cleaning, decorating, cooking, and other tasks.

Create A Plan For Entertainment

Set up for some fun and engaging entertainment activities, such as a holiday movie marathon, games or music to keep the holiday party alive for guests.

Hire Professional Cleaners

Are you under a serious time crunch when preparing your home? If yes, book professionals with experience in thorough vacate cleaning in Perth and house cleaning services because they know how to clean walls and ceilings, remove grime and dirt from floors, etc for important events. They will save you time and money.

Do Create A Backup Plan

This is one of the crucial things that can't be overlooked. Always create a backup plan for unexpected events, such as last-moment cancellations, health emergencies or bad weather.

Don'ts

Don't Overspend Money On Unnecessary Things

Overspending is one of the major blunders people make when planning for holiday hosting, leading to financial stress. Creating a realistic budget for decorations, food, beverages, gifts, and other aspects can help you track and manage your expenses.

Don't Overlook Kitchen Appliances

Most people forget to clean dirty and grimy ovens and microwaves. This can leave a negative impression on your guests. Thus, it is good to use eco-friendly products to remove stains, build up grease, stuck food particles and grime from your much-loved kitchen appliances. Also, empty and clean your refrigerator to make space for a holiday feast.

Don't Micromanage Your Guests

You should avoid overly dictating every aspect when hosting a holiday party at home. This can make your guests feel uncomfortable. It is good to allow your guests, friends and family to feel comfortable and enjoy the festive vibe without being controlled.

Do Not Ignore Small Details

It is important to confirm that you have sufficient silverware, napkins and other holiday party supplies on hand. This will help you avoid last-minute chaos.

Don't Overlook Communication

A good host always prioritises clear communication in the holiday gathering. Make sure you keep your guests informed about the party schedule, meal times, activities, dietary instructions, and special arrangements.



Don't Overlook Safety Precautions

There is no denying that safety should be your topmost priority when hosting a holiday party. Make sure you have fully functioning fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and a first aid box.

Don't Spend All Your Time In The Kitchen

Your guests came to spend quality time with you, and there is no logic in spending all your time mixing and preparing dishes. Instead of running back to the kitchen all the time, it is good to plan your food, beverage and dessert serving timeline in the most organised way and enjoy the time.

Don't Forget To Eat

Keep yourself energetic when preparing for the holiday gathering. Fill a plate for yourself before the arrival of your guests so that you can host them with full energy.

Don't Let Your Pets Run Freely

Do not assume that your guests will also love your beloved pet. It is good to keep them in a separate yet safe room and make your guests feel comfortable.

Don't Stress

You don't have to be a perfect host. So, reduce your stress and create an inviting and joyful ambience for your guests. Focus on small things, serve food with love and keep your guests entertained. If you are moving out of a rental property during holidays, book professionals for a thorough vacate cleaning in Perth and secure your full bond money without any disagreement.

These are the 10's and Don'ts of holiday hosting that will help you become a good host and leave a great impression on your guests. Make sure you create a proper checklist and stay organised throughout the process.

6. Tips to Make Your Guest Room Feel Like Home

Preparing your home for house guests can be a very enjoyable experience in Perth. There's something satisfying about helping your visitors feel welcome and comfortable.

When you start to plan your guest room, think about what you'd expect to find in a 5-diamond hotel and try to make your room measure up to that standard. Your budget may not be enough to create a getaway oasis, but you can clear the decks, lay out all the necessities, and provide a quiet place to relax.

Read on for a comprehensive list of things to do or buy to help you set up a welcoming guest room for your visitors.

Provide a Comfortable Bed

Don't give your guests the oldest, saggiest mattress you have. If you can't afford a new or good used bed, think about getting a quality air mattress. They're really quite comfortable and can be placed on top of a box spring, over a sofa bed mattress, or on the floor.

Upgrade Your Bedding

Beyond clean bedding, think about adding luxurious bed linens and comfort items supplied by fine B&Bs: a featherbed mattress topper, a choice of pillows, a cozy down comforter, extra blankets, and freshly ironed pillowcases.

Supply Extra Linens

Always have an extra set of bed and bath linens available for your guests in Perth. Accidents do happen! Or you may have one of those wonderful guests who insists on changing the sheets when they leave. Let them do it, and thank them profusely.

Make Room for a Suitcase

Clear a space to put a luggage rack or provide a small table or bench to set down a suitcase. No one likes to have to stoop over to the floor to pull out a clean pair of socks. Even a chair is better than nothing.

Clear the Decks

Resist the temptation to put your beautiful collection of dolls on the dresser or fill the closet with out-of-season clothes. In a guest room, less is more—more space, more comfortable, and more welcoming. Get rid of anything you would not find in a hotel room. Keep only the most useful items in the room, like a clock and calendar.

Make Sure There's a Comfy Place to Sit

Some people do not feel comfortable sitting on a bed and your guests shouldn't have to. Place an upholstered armchair or side chair in the room with a table and lamp close by.



Brighten Things Up

One of the biggest hotel decor missteps is when an otherwise nice room has no light to read by. It's always helpful to have a light control near the bed so your guest won't have to stumble around in the dark just to turn a light on. If nothing else, provide a good reading light near a chair or over the bed. Another fixture or lamp near the desk would be great. A small night light is helpful, and a lighted magnifying makeup mirror is a real luxury.

Clean the Closet

If your guest room shares space with a home office, clear at least a foot or two of pole space in the closet. Or purchase an inexpensive over-the-door hook that can accommodate some hanging clothes. Don't forget a supply of six to eight hangers. A simple hook on the wall or behind a closet door can hold a robe, coat, or a purse.

Make Some Drawer Space

If you have an extra chest of drawers, that's ideal, but if not, clearing out at least one or two drawers for small items is sufficient. Both you and your guest will feel better with odds and ends out of sight.

Don't Forget Simple Basics

A lighted clock next to the bed is a great amenity, and an alarm clock or clock/radio is even better. Provide paper and pens, scissors, tape, tissue, and a hairdryer to have all the bases covered. If you don't have an extra iron and ironing board to offer, be sure to tell your guest where they can find yours.

Provide Privacy

You might know that the big maple tree just outside the window camouflages everything going on, but your guests won't. Choose window coverings that add to the character of the room and also provide

privacy and light control. If you need to keep it simple, blinds work great. You can always add a beautiful valance or side panels later.

Supply a Set of Keys

Put together several sets of keys to your home (and car if your guests will be using it). Color-code the sets and keep track of who has what. Keep a simple log of who has which colored set, and check them in when they're returned.

Give Guests the Inside Scoop

If your home in Perth has a security system, provide instructions for your guests. This applies if you live in a gated community or neighborhood that has a swimming pool, walking paths, parking regulations, emergency evacuation rules, or any other HOA guidelines that your house guests should be aware of.

Share Local Tourist Info

If your guests will be going around town without you, they'll appreciate area maps, brochures on the hot spots, and directions to your home. Make a list of the best shopping areas, museums, parks, and your favorite restaurants. Mark special locations on the maps with highlighter pens. Place all the items in a box or basket that you keep in the guest room. That way, you won't have to re-gather everything when another guest arrives.

Provide Snacks to Enjoy

House guests get "the nibbles" in the evening, just like everyone else. Place wrapped snacks, fresh fruit or cookies, and a bottle of water in the guest room. How about a small coffee pot or water heater, instant cider, tea, and coffee, and creamer and sugar? When your guests are up late at night reading that book they can only get to while away from home, they'll be able to put together a tasty snack without sneaking down to your kitchen.

Leave Good Reading at Hand

If you've read a wonderful novel, share it with your guest. Five-minute mysteries, travel books, an assortment of magazines, classic novels, or the local paper will provide quiet-time activities for your guest.

Set Up a Center for Entertainment

A TV in the guest room is much appreciated. Don't forget to place the remote control near the bed so they don't have to get out of bed to turn it off.

Help Guests Stay Connected

If your home is wired, great! Write down your wi-fi password and leave it on the nightstand for your house guests. If not, provide a cable connection to hook up a computer. Many people travel with laptops and do work or check e-mail when away from home. Provide a desk and chair and a good lamp.

The list of ideas you've just read might seem long, but everything is simple and logical to provide. By thinking of what you would like to find in a fine hotel room, you'll be on your way to creating a perfect guest room.

7. Conclusion

Hosting guests at your home in Perth can indeed be challenging, but with careful planning and effort, it becomes a rewarding experience. By focusing on creating a warm and welcoming environment, you can ensure your guests feel valued and comfortable. Embrace the opportunity to share your hospitality and make lasting memories with practical tips and insights to guide you.

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