



# COASTERDIYPROJECT

## Getting Ready for Visitors

PROJECT TYPE

Home Maintenance

DIFFICULTY

Easy

Yes, it's a bit exhausting to have extra people within your walls, and yes, it does provide more work – for a time. But really, we truly love having guests. They usually play with our children, which everyone enjoys, and it provides us a nice break from the hum-drum of daily life. Hosting guests doesn't have to be a pain – it can be something you look forward to.

**1.** Let your guests be themselves. Really mean it when you say, “make yourself at home.” If you're willing to have guests, be willing to let them put their feet up on your coffee table. This is within reason, of course – don't let manipulative people treat you like a doormat.

**2.** Provide extra toiletries. We have a basket of basic essentials that we bring out for overnighters, and we leave it on the guest bathroom counter for them to help themselves. It's nothing fancy – just toothpaste, soap, lotion, shampoo and conditioner, and unopened toothbrushes. I stock up on some of these items when they're on sale, and this is also a great use for those travel-sized freebies from hotels.

**3.** Make things easy to find. When they first arrive, have all their needed towels either out on the bathroom counter, or on their bed or night stand. If they're early risers – earlier than you, anyway – leave out some basic breakfast goodies for them to help themselves. Don't forget the dishes and silverware, too. If they arrive after a long trip, put a little basket of refreshments on their night stand. A simple bottle of water, a package of nuts, maybe a banana, and a little welcome note can really make them feel welcome.

**4.** Keep coffee and tea on hand. Even if you don't drink it, a coffee drinker is always thankful to have the means to make a cup of joe in the morning. It doesn't have to be anything high-end if you don't drink it, but make sure it's fresh.

**5.** Create some simple extra touches to make your guests feel welcomed and attended to. Place an inexpensive flower in a small vase on their night stand. Provide a great-smelling candle and a book of matches. Make sure there's an alarm clock available, too.

**6.** Provide reading material. Collect a few magazines and put them in an easy-to-reach basket near their bed. Maybe even select a good book of short stories (short stories are good, so that guests can actually finish what they're reading, as opposed to a long novel). If there's something you've really wanted your house guest to read, now's a great time to oh-so subtly leave it on the night stand, waiting to be read.

**7.** Depending on the reason for their visit, you may want to provide information about where you live. If they're in town on vacation, provide some brochures about tourist spots, a map, and maybe something unique about where you live for them to enjoy while they're in town – a book from a local author, a travel guide, or a CD from a local musician.

**8.** Let them help around the house. Don't put them to work, of course, but I've learned after having 25 overnight guests this year alone, people will be more relaxed and feel less like an intruder if you say yes to their inevitable question, “Can I do anything?” Let them do something small, like set the silverware at the dinner table, or stir the soup bubbling on the stove. Chat with them while you work together, and take that time to get to know more about them.

SOURCE

Simple Mom

<http://simplemom.net/tips-to-help-guests-feel-welcome/>