



## **Homestay International Students** **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q. How can I call my host parents? By first name or Mr. & Mrs?**

*A. Please ask your host family how they prefer to be called. In some cases they might want to be called "Mom" and "Dad".*

**Q. What do I do with my dirty clothes?**

*A. Ask your hosts how to use the Washer and Dryer and for a basket for dirty clothes if there isn't one in your room. Note that most Dryers when used in the high temperature setting already leave the clothes wrinkle-free, eliminating the need for ironing. (\*\*\*) Only use the Dryer in high temperature for non-sensitive and non-delicate fabric items, otherwise, your item may shrink.*

**Q. I do not know how to iron my clothes. What do I do?**

*A. Ask your host family to show you where the iron and ironing board are and also ask them to please show you how to use the iron.*

**Q. Can I take a bath? How long can I stay in the bath or shower?**

*A. Ask your hosts how much water you can use or how long the average shower should last and whether it is appropriate to take a bath.*

**Q. I asked my hosts if they needed help with the dishes and they said no. What else can I do?**

*A. You can offer to take out the trash or set the table before dinner.*

**Q. My hosts tell me "help yourself". What does it mean?**

*A. It means that you can eat whatever you want, but be careful not to eat foods that seem to be "special" to the family, without asking first.*

**Q. What does "meal time" mean?**

*A. It means what time the meals are served.*

**Q. Can I hang pictures and posters on the wall of my room?**

*A. Ask permission to your hosts first and ask how not leave marks and holes when you remove them from the wall before you leave.*

**Q. Can I go into every room of my host family home or some areas are private?**

*A. Usually, some areas of the house are private, so just ask your host if you are unsure.*

**Q. If it's someone's birthday in my host family (host mother, host sister, etc), what should I do?**

*A. In the morning is polite to wish happy birthday and if possible bring a birthday card in the end of the day, but is not a requirement.*



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**Q. Where can I store my luggage?**

*A. You may ask your hosts to store in the garage if you happen not to have space in your closet. If you have items of high value, always keep them in a safe, or just ask your host where would be a safe place for you to store your valuables in the house.*

**Q. How long can I stay online or use the Internet for?**

*A. Please ask your host if they have any internet usage limitations, most don't, but ask just in case.*

**Q. What are my duties in my Homestay?**

*A. You should make your bed, keep your room tidy and leave the bathroom clean and tidy after using it.*

**Q. I 'm not liking the food at home. What should I do?**

*A. The food in the U.S is most likely different from the food in your home country, so first make an effort to try new dishes and foods as a part of your American Living experience, and if you still cannot adapt, please communicate with your hosts and give some examples of dishes that you like, or if you feel more comfortable, contact us by email and we will talk to your host on your behalf.*

**Q. May I bring alcoholic beverages to the Homestay?**

*A. Preferably not, but if you have permission from your host, you may, but please also keep in mind that the drinking legal age in CA is 21.*

**Q. My hosts go to sleep early and I like to stay on the phone with my friends.**

*A. It is impolite to receive calls after 9pm, but if you do, please make sure your ringer tone is on vibrate mode and don't be loud when talking.*

**Q. In my country I go to sleep late and get up late if it's not a school day. My hosts want me to go to sleep when they go to sleep, but it's too early for me.**

*A. Most international students have this problem. It is best to stay as quiet as possible even if you are not in bed after your hosts go to bed. Americans go to sleep early and wake up early as a general rule, but there are exceptions.*

**Q. My hosts asked me to take only 1 quick shower per day, but in my country I take two.**

*A. In the U.S it is not common to take more than 1 shower per day, especially in San Diego, considering the serious water supply shortage we face, so international students must adapt to this rule to contribute to the water conservation.*

**Q. Should I warn my hosts when I want to go out at night?**

*A. It is polite to tell your hosts when you are going out and what time you should be expected to be back. Call or text to notify if you will be arriving after hours so they won't worry about you. Please note that the minimum age to be allowed in bars and night clubs in California is also 21.*



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**Q. Should the house be locked at all times? Will I have a key?***A. Your hosts should provide you a key, but if they don't, please remind them. Also, ask them to explain to you the functionality of any security system that they might be using throughout the house and please follow their guidelines. If you lose your key, please let your hosts know immediately.*

**Q. If a stranger is knocking and I'm home alone, should I open the door?**

*A. No, do not open the door right away, go to the nearest window and check who is knocking and if you don't recognize that person, do not let him or her enter the house under any circumstances.*

**Q. What do I do in an Emergency?**

*A. In case of a life threatening emergency, Dial 911 for the fire department or paramedics. Please contact us directly by email or phone (858) 255 8781 in case of other emergencies.*

*If you have any additional question (s) that was not answered above, please email your question (s) to: [info@andrettosolutions.com](mailto:info@andrettosolutions.com)*