

HOMESWEETHOMES

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Preparing guestrooms for the holidays

If you are hosting friends or family members during the holidays, does your guestroom rate as a four-star accommodation? Or does it rate as a half star?

Creating a warm, comfortable guestroom demonstrates hospitality and a willingness to please. Here are a few simple ideas that can make your guestroom more hospitable.

- * **A Comfortable Bed.** Clean linen is a must, but think also about adding a featherbed mattress topper, a choice of pillows, a cozy down comforter and extra blankets.
- * **Extra Room.** Don't overcrowd your guestroom with knickknacks. Useful items such as a clock and calendar are recommended. Make sure that guests don't have to hunt for available space to put their belongings.
- * **Privacy.** Window coverings should allow both privacy and adequate lighting. They should also add to the beauty of the room. You don't want your guests having to turn out the lights to change.

- * **Proper Lighting.** Make sure the room has adequate general lighting. You could even include a desk lamp, a reading light by the bed, or a makeup mirror.
- * **Appropriate Storage.** Clear enough space in a closet, or install an over-the-door rack to hold some hangers. A couple of empty drawers in a dresser should be adequate.
- * **Details.** The following items come in handy and demonstrate basic courtesy: an alarm clock, a phone, a pad of paper and pen, scissors, tape, tissue, an ironing board and a hair dryer.
- * **Snacks.** Include a bowl of fruit, cookies, candies or packaged snacks.
- * **A Chair.** It's a joy to sink into a comfortable chair at the end of a day. Install an upholstered chair in a corner beside a table or a lamp so that guests don't have to sit on the edge of a bed.
- * **Reading Material.** Try to have some current magazines or newspapers handy. Guests often like to read before going to sleep.

- * **TV/Radio.** TVs and radios are a great addition to any guestroom. You may even want to include a VCR, video tapes and a remote.
- * **Computers.** You may feel it necessary to include a computer in a guestroom, but if your guests bring notebooks, you'll want to provide a desk, chair, phone line, nearby outlet and a desk lamp.

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