

Homestay Guidelines

Kia Ora!

Thank you for applying homestay through Host Families NZ.

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This guide is designed to provide key information and outline the student's responsibilities to ensure an enjoyable and safe homestay living environment.

What is a homestay?

Homestay is a popular form of accommodation provided to students and it is a great way to settle in a new environment. In New Zealand, each family or household can host up to 4 students.

The host family will provide you with a private bedroom, a bed, study desk, chair, lamp and somewhere to put your clothes. Beddings will also be available for you to use; however, you are welcome to bring your own linen.

Personal things such as toiletries and shampoo are student's responsibility.

Settling in

Living with a new family is exciting, but at the same time, you might find a lot of things different from what you use to. Here are some tips to help you settle in.

- Introduce yourself and try to know your host family.
- Let your host know your timetable and get to know the family's day-to-day routine. Knowing what is going on at home, such as dinner time, shower time or curfew will reduce the misunderstanding and make you feel more comfortable at home.
- Be familiar with surroundings and public transportation. Your host will show you where to catch the bus and how to get to school. Please save your homestay's address and contact details in your phone in case you get lost.
- Greet your host every time you see them
- Let your host know when you are leaving home and inform them the return time
- Please discuss any medical conditions that your homestay should know about

Meals

1. What to expect?

- Breakfast is often a "help yourself" meal with cereal or toast and a cup of a hot drink. Your homestay will show you which food or ingredients are used for breakfast meals. You can simply prepare your own breakfast, eat, and then tidy up once you finish
- Lunch on weekends and public holiday is either a "help yourself" meal or prepared by the host family.
- Dinner is the main meal of the day and you will be having dinner with your host family.

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- If you choose no meal option, please arrange your own breakfast, lunch and dinner.

2. What you should know about sharing meals at your homestay?

- Please discuss your dietary preferences with your host family. Most importantly, please let them know if you are allergic to any food
- Please clean up after yourself after meals. You may help to load the dishwasher if host family has one
- Please do not eat in your room to prevent ants and mice, or damage the carpet
- Advise your host family if you will be away for dinner
- You will not be allowed to cook, unless on special occasions and under supervision
- Please buy your own snacks
- Milk in the fridge is used for breakfast meals. You are most welcome to make a cup of tea or coffee. But if you would like to drink more, please buy your own milk.
- Please be aware that you should pay for yourself if your host family takes you out (movie for example) or away (e.g., overnight or weekend trip). If you prefer to have some of your own time, you can choose not to go. But please remember to say “thank you” for their invitation

Sharing a home with your homestay

1. Cleanliness and manners

- You are responsible for keeping your room and the bathroom you are using clean and tidy. If you have an en-suite, please make sure you clean the shower box, basin, and toilet regularly. You can ask your host parent(s) for cleaning materials and detergents. If you are sharing the bathroom with others, you will need to take turn to clean it
- Please make sure you are using the toilet correctly in your homestay. Do not stand on toilet seat or throw the toilet paper in the bin. The used toilet paper should throw in the toilet and flush it away. Girl’s sanitary pad should be wrapped in paper and put in the bin and remember to empty the bin regularly.
- You are responsible for making your own bed each morning. Please draw the curtains to let the sunshine into your room and open the window to let in fresh air. The sunlight may warm up your room naturally but please DO NOT keep the windows open if there is no one at home
- Contribute to household duties as other family members do, such as preparing vegetables or taking the rubbish bins out. You can ask your host to show you where the vacuum cleaner is and help you to use it
- Please ask your homestay’s permission if you want to invite your friend to come over

2. Laundry

- Your homestay will make the laundry available for you to use. Please ask your host family when it is a good time to do your washing and show you how to use the washing machine.
- If you like to hand wash your clothes, it is not a problem. But please do not hang the wet cloth in the bathroom or in your bedroom. Ask your homestay if you do not know where to hang the cloth
- Your bed linen must be changed regularly. Some families do it weekly and some families do it fortnightly. Please discuss with your host

3. Electricity, internet, and water use at your homestay

- Be mindful in your new environment and community – respect the use of electricity, water, etc. Please turn off the heater, electric blanket and switch off lights before you leave the house
- Please note your host family can monitor your power and water consumption. In the case of excessive usage, you will be shown the readings and may be charged extra
- Shower time is normally 5 to 7 minutes, maximum 10 minutes.
- Please do not use the shower after 10 pm

4. Smoking, drinking and drugs

- No smoking is allowed inside the house.
- If you are under 18, you are not allowed to smoke or buy cigarettes at any time
- Drinking age is 18 and over in New Zealand
- You are not allowed to use illegal drugs. i.e. Marijuana, Opiates, LSD

Curfew and safety

- For safety reason, you are required to be home no later than the following times every day:
 - Under 15 years - 6:00pm
 - 15 years - 7:00pm
 - 16 and 17 years - 7:00pm Sunday to Thursday; 10:00pm Friday and Saturday
- If you are under the age of 18, you are not allowed to stay overnight in other accommodation at any time unless you have a written permission from your school/Host Families NZ
- Please be sure to phone your homestay if you are going to be late
- Please minimize the noise after 10pm
- Please keep your house key somewhere safe and do not lend it to anyone else. If you lose your key, you are responsible to pay for the replacement cost

Plan a holiday, extending homestays, or moving out

- If you plan to go away for a few days (over 18 students only), please make sure you notify your homestay where you are going and when you will be returning to your homestay
- If you are going away for more than 6 nights, you can choose to pay a Holding fee to keep your room. However, the Holiday Plan Form must be completed and returned to HFNZ at least two weeks in advance. Otherwise, full accommodation fee will apply.
- If you plan to return to your current homestay after your holiday, although you are paying a holding fee, but your homestay can have another student during your absent. Therefore, you might need to pack your stuff before you leave, and your homestay will guide you where to put your luggage.
- If you plan to move out early or if you would like to extend your homestay accommodation, you must complete the move-out form or extension form. The minimum notice period would be two weeks.
- You will need to clean your room and the bathroom before you are moving out from your homestay. Otherwise, a cleaning fee will be charged.
- You can find holiday plan form, extension form and move-out form in appendix.

Other Important information

- Any misbehaviour of a possible criminal nature may result in suspension of your homestay while relevant authorities investigate (e.g. NZ Police)
- Please respect the property and privacy of your host family
- Please be aware that HFNZ reserves the rights to remove you from homestay without further responsibility to relocate you, if you do not follow the homestay guidelines
- Please be aware that during your homestay period, your personal belongings are at your own risk.
- Please note you are liable for any damage that caused by you during your stay. But do not worry, please contact us for assistance.

I _____ (Please insert your full name in English,

declare that I understand and accept the Homestay guidelines listed above and agree to abide by the homestay rules and requirements.

Student signature

Date

Parent signature
(if the student is under the age of 18)

Date