

Bathroom etiquette

Australia is often in periods of drought and it is important to be water-wise. Remember:

- Spend no longer than 10 minutes in the shower and leave the bathroom tidy.
- Leave the bathroom clean and tidy and hang your wet towel up to allow it to dry.
- Female household members are expected to wrap sanitary products in paper and place them in the rubbish bin.
- It is your responsibility to clean the toilet after you have finished when necessary.



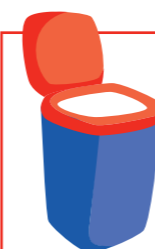
Bathroom etiquette

Remember these tips



Take shorter showers

Turn off the tap when you clean your teeth



Use a bin for rubbish

Do not put anything down the toilet or sink!

Use the half flush button on the toilet when possible

Do not stand on the toilet. Clean after yourself!



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Dear student,

The UTS Insearch Accommodation Team would like to extend to you a very warm welcome.

We have placed you with a Homestay family, taking your preferences into consideration to the best of our ability.

To help you adjust to living in Sydney with your new family, here are some tips to ensure your experience is a positive and rewarding one.

Don't forget, we are only an email or call away if you have any questions regarding your accommodation arrangement. We also encourage you to talk to your Homestay family if you have any concerns – they'd love to hear from you!

Sincerely,
The UTS Insearch Accommodation Team
accommodation@insearch.edu.au

Hints on Australian household customs

The typical Australian family

Families and individuals are all different and there is no 'stereotypical Australian family'. Some live in large houses close to the beach while others live in small flats in the city. Some have children and pets and others have none. However, what all Homestay families have in common are good English skills, friendliness and a safe home for you to live in.

Australian law forbids discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, religion, marital status or sex. Therefore, we can't favour one type of Australian family over another. However, we can guarantee that your Homestay family will look after you during your stay and the UTS Insearch Accommodation Team is available to help answer any questions.

Asking before using

It is polite for any guests, including Homestay students, to be aware of the needs of others and ask before using household equipment.

Please and thank you

It is important to be polite to your Homestay family and have good manners. Remember:

- Australians say "please" when asking for something and "thank you" (with a smile) when receiving something, or if someone does something for them.
- It is important to say, "I'm sorry" if you make a mistake and "excuse me" if you wish to walk past someone, or need to interrupt their conversation or activity.

Table manners

Meal times are good opportunities to practice your conversational English with your hosts. Remember:

- It is good manners to eat quietly and with your mouth closed.
- If you enjoyed your meal, compliment the person who cooked it.
- It's okay to tell your Homestay family that you don't like certain foods. They would prefer to know.

Home security and safety

Your Homestay family will give you a house key to use and look after. Remember:

- Lock the door behind you if you are the last person to leave.
- When travelling on public transport, sit where there are a lot of people and close to the guard if on a train.
- If you do not have a house key, please contact the UTS Insearch Accommodation Team to help you obtain one.
- Keep all valuables, money, passport and airline tickets in a safe place. Do not keep large amounts of cash.

Meals

Homestay families appreciate you offering to set the table and wash your dishes after the meal. Remember:

- Breakfast is self-serve and usually consists of toast, cereal, a hot drink and/or fruit juice.
- Lunch may consist of a sandwich, salad or leftover food from the night before.
- Dinner is the most substantial meal of the day.

- Students are expected to eat dinner at the table, not in their rooms or in front of the television.
- If you miss eating a particular food from home, tell your Homestay family. If available, they will make an effort to include it when preparing meals.
- Alternatively, you may want to offer to cook something for the family that will give them an idea of the kind of food you enjoy.

Heaters/air conditioners

Most Australian households do not use central heating or cooling systems.

- Portable heaters may be used during winter and fans in summer.
- To conserve electricity, do not leave heaters/fans on during the night.

Washing and general household duties

- Your Homestay family may wash your clothes or show you how to use the washing machine so you can do it yourself.
- Allow your Homestay family to help you clean your room once a week.
- Offer to help with light household duties.

If you have a problem

If there's a household rule you don't understand or an issue you'd like to discuss, please speak to your Homestay family. You're encouraged to liaise with them directly, as it's an important part of the Homestay experience. If they're not resolved to your satisfaction, you can contact the Homestay provider or UTS Insearch Accommodation Team located in the UTS Insearch Student Centre.

Our contact number is **9218 8614** during business hours and our after hours mobile number is **0419 224 861**.
Only use this number in an emergency.

