

Information/ House Rule template

Host Families will discuss their house rules with students when they begin the homestay with their host family. As outlined in the Homestay Agreement, house rules are provided to the student in writing. The rules will be no different for any host children in their family. Host family rules are in place to guide students in their new environment and ensure the safety and wellbeing of the students.

Below is a combined collection. Feel free to copy, paste and add to create your own introduction/ rule sheet. I recommend keeping it short and concise; no more than one page print out in total (print on both sides) to hand out to your new students to discuss.

Welcome to our home. It is great to have you be part of our family!

We have outlined some guidelines that we feel will be helpful in knowing what is expected of you and from us. If there is anything you do not understand, please ask us – we are here to help you learn our customs and language.

HOME ADDRESS AND CONTACTS

Address here

Cellphone numbers here

Wi-Fi Password here

Your personal cellphone number here

If you are ever lost or don't know what to do, please contact us immediately. If you are in danger, please call **911** and notify the **police** of the nature of the danger and your location.

Please note that we are not allowed to sign any documentation. Please contact your homestay coordinator (homestay@wvschools.ca) at West Vancouver Schools should you have any questions.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is the key. You must inform us about your whereabouts and when you expect to come back home. *You can call, text or What's App our cell phones.*

KEYS

You will have your own key or house code.

Your student must receive a backup key either way.

Never lend this key to anyone else or share the code. We expect you to take care of the key and return it to us upon completion of your stay. Please lock doors and windows when you leave the house and take your key.

MEALS

We hope that you will like Canadian food. We cook all types of different cuisines. If you tell us what foods you like, we will also try to accommodate.

Water: Vancouver tap water is safe, drinkable and very delicious.

Breakfast and Lunch: In our home, adults and teenagers prepare their own breakfasts. We will help you at first. Please tell us what to buy for your breakfast and school lunch. Lunch will often consist of a sandwich with a piece of fruit and yogurt or sweet treat, such as cookies. Leftovers from dinner may be taken for lunch, if desired. Lunch is prepared in recyclable containers which are expected to be returned daily. Do NOT discard these containers.

Dinner:

- Dinner will be prepared for you. Preparation help is always welcome.
- We usually eat dinner at _____.
- No cell phones/ tablets or headphones at the dinner table as we encourage conversations
- Please help clean the table after dinner.
- Please do not use the stove unless we are home.
- If you are not coming home for dinner, you must phone early so that we know how much food to cook.

Snacks: If you are hungry between meals, you can fix yourself a snack such as _____.

Kitchen usage: You must always clean any mess you leave in the kitchen. Remember to put your dirty dishes in the dishwasher.

Weekend meals: _____.

LAUNDRY

Please elaborate who is responsible for doing the laundry, how frequent and preferably choose a day that you are assigning for the student's laundry. Please also clarify the changing and washing of the bed sheets (every two weeks common).

SHOES

Please remove your shoes when you enter the house (house slippers OK).

YOUR ROOM

Your room is your private space. When you are in your room, you may close the door if you want to be alone. If there is anything that we have forgotten that will make your stay more comfortable, please let us know.

- Snacking in your bedroom: _____
- Please take your garbage out every _____.
- Cleaning supplies, the vacuum cleaner can be found _____.
- We encourage you to make your bed every day.
- Your room must be cleaned once per week:
 - Wipe down surfaces with damp clothes (desk, dresser, shelves, windowsills and baseboards, etc.)
 - Vacuum once a week (including under bed, inside closet, edges and corners of room)

THE BATHROOM

I highly recommend a visible print out for the non-disposal of items for the toilet (google image "it is a toilet not a trash can").

- You will share a bathroom with _____.
- Please wipe the sink after each use and keep the bathroom tidy.
- Clean towels _____.
- Showers should not be taken before 6:30 am or later than 10:00 pm because the noise will disturb other members of the family. Showers must be limited to 10 minutes.
- Please turn the bathroom fan on before using the toilet and starting the shower.
- In Canada, we leave the bathroom door open after we are finished. This will help air circulate and will indicate that the bathroom is available.
- No hair dyeing/ coloring

FAMILY ROOM

Our Home – Your Home

You are welcome to make yourself at home in the “common areas” of the house and watch TV with us. Please respect quiet time after _____ as our normal family bedtime is _____. We also don't enter other people's bedrooms in the house unless invited. Please knock.

ENTERTAINING FRIENDS

- We want you to bring your friends to our home. However, please ask us first in case it is not convenient at the time.
- In Canada, teenagers may not have friends of the opposite sex in the room unless the door is open. It is better to entertain friends of the opposite sex in the family room.
- Sleepovers at our home: _____.

CURFEWS AND STAYING OVERNIGHT AT A FRIEND'S HOME

Most Canadian students have curfews. This means that they must be home at night before a certain time. The curfew guidelines are set by the International Programs.

Weekend (Friday and Saturday night):

- 12:00 am for grade 10, 11 and 12 students
- 10:00 pm for grade 8 and 9 students

Weekday (Sunday to Thursday):

- 10:00 pm for grade 10, 11 and 12 students
- 9:00 pm for grade 8 and 9 students

Your curfew is _____.

SECURITY CAMERAS

For security purposes, many families do have cameras installed on their property. Please inform your student about their location.

TRANSPORTATION

You will be responsible for your own transportation to and from school and other places you want to go. You will purchase a student's monthly pass once school has started.

We will show you how to use the bus, purchase a single ticket and where the bus stop is. It is very easy!

The important bus schedule routes around our home are # _____.

More bus information can also be found at <https://www.translink.ca/>.

SAFETY

Please do not walk alone at night. If you are away from home and do not feel safe, phone home immediately.

TELEPHONE

If you plan to use the telephone a lot, you should have your own telephone installed. This will cost about \$100. Then the monthly cost will be about \$25 plus charges for long-distance calls.

You can use our phone, but we have rules for use of our telephone:

- No one is to call you before 7am or after 10pm.
- Calls should be limited to 15 minutes. If you wish to make a longer call, please ask us if this is okay.
- All long-distance calls must be placed collect or a long-distance calling card used. Under no circumstances should you make direct dial long-distance phone calls.

GENERAL

In Canada, we are very conscious of conserving energy. Please remember to turn out the lights whenever you leave a room.

We hope these guidelines will help you to know what to do in our home and to feel comfortable. If there is anything you do not understand, please ask us about it. Remember that we don't understand how things work in your country, so we won't know what you are familiar with and what you don't understand.

Once again, we are happy to welcome you to Canada. We consider it our privilege to have you here and assist you in every way that we can.

Welcome!