

Brief(er) House Instructions

A distillation of an otherwise 9 page(!) document intended more for "house-sitters"

Last updated: 07/12

Shared Driveway

- The gravel driveway that we share with 6 other neighboring homes is exceptionally steep. Maintenance costs are high. If you can avoid driving on it, please do. We have an automobile parking spot down by the mailbox & a foot path that starts there & goes up to the house. If you must drive up the driveway (say, with substantial cargo, etc.), use 4WD / AWD if you have it, or be especially cautious not to spin wheels if you don't.

Entryway

- We don't ordinarily use the back / north door in the dead-cold of winter or blazing-heat of summer. Come / go via the vestibule entryway.
- Be sure one vestibule door is latched snug before opening the other (push / pull until you here 'em affirmatively click).
- Please remove shoes in the inner vestibule (or outside a door). 'Have some flaps in a basket if you desire "house shoes"... the simple idea is to minimize bringing outdoor grit-n-grime into the living space, as is otherwise the tendency in "mountain" homes.
- Particularly when wet out, take care to keep the rug in the vestibule clean & dry so as to be a "safe landing zone" to step onto if in your socks or slaps.

Kitchen

- *Only* biodegradables & the very finest particulates can go down the drain.
- Nothing compostable is ever trashed. Gunk collected in the kitchen sink filter-screens all goes in the silver compost can. Best is to use the red strainer as much as possible when doing dishes, else the drain strainers clog in short order and everything backs up.
- Make sure no pesky plastic produce labels go into the compost can.
- Any bones should be set aside for separate drying, & eventual chipper-shreddering and composting.
- Nothing recyclable is ever trashed. 'Extensive materials recycling options are in the pantry room. If you have doubts about what is/n't recyclable, or where it should go, please ask or leave it for us to figure out.
- "Paper or Plastic?" Heyzeus Kristi ... *neither!* If you don't have your own reusable cloth bag for groceries, borrow one of ours. Please do not bring home more friggin' bags (of any sort). We've got plenty of produce bags to be re-used as well.
- Practice the 3 R's: *Reduce; Re-use, Recycle* ...in that order. Trash is *waste* ... minimize it!
- Please use the whole-house ventilator when grilling (or perhaps inadvertently burning) anything on the stove so as to keep indoor air quality optimized. Controlled via the timer knob in the bathrooms.
- As much as possible, *conserve water*. All that we have comes off the roof, and in especially dry times we may need to ration it.

Transportation

- We're quite serious about people honoring commitments with respect to transportation & pricing. Vehicles coming to the house on your behalf figure-in, just as if it were yours / you doing the driving.
- Please plan for your first night's arrival before say 9:00 PM at the latest, so we can orient you. 'Very much preferred if you can arrive before dark.

continued...

Bathrooms

- *Only* biodegradables & fine particulates can go down the drains. No shaving cream, etc.! If it doesn't say "biodegradable", it almost surely is not. *Please do not poison our gardens with toxics!* We can supply everything you need... no purchases necessary, keep it simple.
- Likewise, if you are (or have recently been) taking *antibiotics*, we can't have you peeing or pooping in the composting toilet ... it would kill the composting processes. 'Can provide an alternative for you. Neem & Tea Tree oil are anti-microbial and shouldn't be used either (same issue with the graywater system).
- We try *very hard* to do *all* our poopin' in the downstairs toilet, as it's a shorter, less convoluted haul from there to the compositor, and limits clogging with the low-flush toilets. Only genuine "emergencies" excepted.
- Ladies, in the interest of minimizing toilet clogging, *pee-TP* should be put in the metal flip-can.
- *All poop-TP* still get's flushed down the toilets, of course. But *please use as little TP to get the job done* as you can. Excess TP clogs the low-flow toilet which results in excess water being needed to unclog, which can result in overflow from the composter in the basement. **Yuck!**
- There's a ventilation fan to exhaust the bathrooms, actuated with the timer switch on the walls. Please use it if-when you make a stink. 15 mins or so should be adequate.
- No tampons, applicators, or pads down the toilet (unless 100% biodegradable)... can't believe we have to even say that, but we've fished 'em out of the compost / composter before {sheesh!}.
- Gentlemen, in the interest of keeping bathrooms cleaner, *please take a seat when peeing* ... if you really desire to stand and hose things down, we can point you to a few different compost piles that would absolutely benefit from the moisture & nitrogen. Whenever possible / not-inordinately-inconvenient, please do your routine pissing outside... it saves water, & really does help the compost heaps. Still have to be mindful of antibiotics. Women are certainly welcome to water the compost heaps too (but noone ever seems to take us up on that).
- Use the "Compost Quick" in the pump bottles to help clean toilet bowls. Try to minimize the amount of water used flushing, but not at the expense of leaving a mess in the bowl. Please leave the toilet brush clean & relatively dry before placing back in it's holster... there should never be poop or water dripping off of it. Shaking rapidly to-n-fro inside the bowl is more effective, less likely to splatter around, & quieter than whacking against the lid or rim.
- After showering downstairs, *please* squeegee glass, sills, walls, and floor, and *be absolutely certain to leave the shower door open* so it can completely dry. Mildew will otherwise promptly ensue.
- When showering upstairs. there's a sponge to mop up tile, and an elastic cord to suspend the hemp shower curtain away from the tub walls so it can thoroughly dry.
- Bath towels will dry very quickly if hung over the rail around the stairs or in the loft, keeping them fresher longer.
- As much as possible, conserve water. In the shower, wet-down, soap-up, rinse-off, turning water off in-between.
- In the middle of the night, no need flush for just a pee, as flushing the low-flush toilets tends to be loud, and potentially wakes others up.

Everywhere

- Again, in the interest of indoor air quality & everyone's comfort, no perfumes, colognes, "deodorants", incense, or any other lingering smells. We thusly can *not* accommodate tobacco smokers.

Thanks for your help & consideration in making this unique home work optimally!