

Preparing your property for hosting

When preparing the property or room you are offering, consider the following:

- If you are offering a spare room in your home to someone you sponsor, make sure that it's clean and any personal items you need access to are removed. Ensure the person staying in that room feels and knows that it belongs to them, and that you will respect their privacy.
- Ensure there's plenty of storage available if needed, if this is not in the same room, make sure the person you sponsor can have unrestricted access to this. Imagine if you had brought everything you own with you, and how important those items would be to you.
- Provide bed linen, towels and other items they may need.
- Provide spare keys in order for the people you sponsor to come and go as they please. Ensure you provide your full address so that they can find their way back should they get lost; help to install google maps on a phone if needed.
- Make sure they have space to store their own food in fridges and cupboards.
- Provide a welcome pack of items that will belong to the person/people you sponsor. This could include toiletries (don't forget towels or tampons for women), nappies for babies, crockery, culturally appropriate food or toys for children.
- If your guest is bringing a pet, make sure they have the things they need and that you understand the [DEFRA guidance](#) relating to pets arriving.
- If your home is non-smoking, and your guest is a smoker, be clear with your guest where they can and cannot smoke.
- You may decide between sponsor and guest that you will cook and eat together; or you may not. Be open and clear with one another about what you would like.
- Everyone will have 'house rules' – discuss with those who already share your home in advance what these are, and ensure your guest knows these too. Living with someone is hard, be prepared to be clear, and to compromise.

We strongly recommend you read further guidance from experienced hosting organisations such as [this one](#), put together by NACCOM and their members.