

Guiding bathroom and toilet use

Any problems caused because of different customs and cultures in the use of the bathroom can be avoided by showing and explaining to your student how to use your bathroom.

This should include showing your student where you put the bath mat when you use it and what you want done with it after it is used. talking about when they may want to take a bath or a shower, telling them the routine of the rest of the family, showing them where to put their towel and what to do with it when it is to be washed, and explaining what to do if somebody else is using the bathroom.

Some students are used to having several long showers every day. You will need to explain that there is a limited amount of hot water, and what is an acceptable time to spend in the shower. Sometimes host families worry about the extra electricity a student may use. Having another person in the house will affect your power bill - that is why students pay a homestay fee. If this is becoming a problem, you can talk about it with your student or contact our International Student Advisors to sort out a realistic solution or compromise.

Using the Toilet

The use and construction of toilets differs from country to country, over half the world's population use squat toilets. Most of our students are aware of the differences and know how to use our toilets, but it may pay to discuss what you put down the toilet, some countries provide rubbish bins for toilet paper rather than flushing it. It is best to talk to your student about what works in your house.

Women from many other cultures do not use tampons when they are menstruating. Help them by showing your disposal system for used sanitary pads and provide something for wrapping.