

What are the customs for washing clothes and bathing in New Zealand?

**Here are some tips from NMIT international students on washing and bathing in a New Zealand homestay.**

- Be prepared to fit into the family timetable. Ask when its a good time to shower.
- It is very important to be considerate especially in the use of hot water because New Zealand houses have a limited supply of hot water and it is expensive to heat. Please limit your hot showers to between 5 to 10 minutes a day.
- The toilet paper can be flushed down the toilet. Sanitary pads for women must not be flushed down the toilet - wrap them in toilet paper and put them in a bin.
- Some host families will wash your clothes for you, others will show you where everything is and expect you to wash your own clothes.
- Most New Zealand families wash everyone's clothes together - clothes and underwear in one load. If this offends you, arrange to wash your clothes yourself or to wash your underwear separately yourself.
- Ask your hosts to show you how to operate the washing machine and dryer if they have one and/or show you a private place to hang your underwear if you need one.

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