

5 SIMPLE WAYS TO *Welcome Guests*



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5 SIMPLE WAYS TO WELCOME GUESTS

By Hilary Bernstein

You don't have to worry about making elaborate plans to welcome guests to your home. In fact, with just some intention and simplicity, you can bless others when they come to visit you. Here are five simple but effective ways to help your guests feel welcome, no matter if they're stopping by for a few minutes or a few days.

1. Acknowledge your guests and their visit. This may seem obvious, but greet your guests! Welcome them. Look them in the eye. Greet them with a hug or a handshake. However you feel comfortable greeting others, make sure you do it!

2. Offer whatever seems needed in the moment. Can you give your guest a hand in some way? Hold the door open for your company? Help them carry something? Turn on a light? Take their coats? Anticipate what might help your guest and help out.

3. Try to help your guest feel comfortable. Comfort can include a variety of aspects, from offering something hot or cold to drink to inviting your guest to sit in a comfortable seat. Other simple touches of comfort include making sure your guest knows where the bathroom is to making sure a cozy blanket or pillow is nearby, if needed.

4. Offer something refreshing to eat or drink. Your food and beverages don't need to be fancy. And depending on whether the visit was planned or not, your offerings may be limited. However, you can anticipate future visits by keeping a few shelf-stable staples on hand, like nuts, dried fruit, and little chocolates. Offering water is always nice, but you also could buy a box of variety of flavors of tea bags for a quick and easy hot tea option.

5. If you're expecting company, clean your kitchen and bathroom. You can shut the door on other rooms of your home, but as long as you have a seating area picked up (either indoor or outdoor) and your bathroom and kitchen cleaned (including clean hand towels), that's all that matters!

For more simple but meaningful hospitality ideas, visit HilaryBernstein.com or read Hilary Bernstein's book, *The Welcoming Home*.