

# Hostess with the Most

**MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME** By Fancy Nancy, Interior Designer

What better gift to give your guests than a well-appointed guest bedroom?

Here are 10 simple ideas, aside from a comfy bed with luxurious linens, for turning that spare room into a thoughtfully designed space. Think of it as a deluxe hotel with the feel of your favorite bed and breakfast.

## 1. A BOOKSHELF WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF MUST-READS

A thrift store or a second-hand bookstore are great places to pick up a variety of inexpensive books on a wide range of topics. If your guest doesn't finish it before they leave, this allows them to take it home. A couple of magazines are nice for those that want a short read. Just make sure they are current issues.

## 2. PROVIDE A SMALL STOOL, BENCH OR FOLDING LUGGAGE RACK

Your guests (and their backs) will thank you when they don't have to rifle through a suitcase on the floor. A couple of empty drawers is an added bonus for those who want to unpack. If your room is small and there is no room for a chest, invest in nightstands with drawers that can pull double duty. Also, try to leave a plug in plain sight for your guest to charge a phone.

## 3. SNACK BASKETS ARE SPECIAL

Cookies, breakfast bars and nuts, are good for a quick snack. Your guests will appreciate them, especially if they have kids.

## 4. SHARE YOUR WIFI

Write your wifi password on a small card and leave on the nightstand. It's an extra way to say, "Make yourself at home."



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#### 5. DESIGNATE A LITTLE SPACE

Clear at least 18-24 inches of closet space and don't forget some extra hangers. Leave a fan in plain sight in the closet, just in case your guests prefer sleeping with a bit of noise.

#### 6. DON'T THROW AWAY THAT OLD SINGLE CUP COFFEEMAKER

A small table can hold a couple of cups, spoons, napkins and a small assortment of coffees. If your guests are early risers, they can have that first cup in their room. I call it "The Pajama Bar."

#### 7. HOARD THOSE HOTEL SOAPS

Shampoos, lotions and soaps make a charming basket for the guest bath, in case your visitors forgot something. Visit the travel-size aisle of the drug store and pick up toothpaste and an extra toothbrush. A miniature bottle of Tylenol will be appreciated and a small sewing kit for a loose button is also a thoughtful addition.

#### 8. SELECT BIG, FLUFFY TOWELS AND WASHCLOTHS

White will make your guests feel as if they are at the Four Seasons, but don't forget to add some colored washcloths for make-up removal. A terry robe hanging on the back of the bathroom door will enhance the spa-like experience. A small basket for dirty towels is nice as well.

#### 9. LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

A nightlight, lighting the way to the bathroom, is a welcome addition. A flashlight in the drawer of the bedside table is also helpful to keep your guest from fumbling around in the dark, in the event of a power outage.

#### 10. A SMALL BOUQUET OF FRESH FLOWERS ADDS A PERSONAL TOUCH

Something as simple as a rose from your garden makes it even more special.

And finally, don't forget this fabulous room is part of your home. When you don't have guests, use it as your own private getaway. Close the door and take a moment to enjoy the beautiful space you have created. You deserve it. 

THE WIFI  
password

WELCOME123