

AMERICAN FLAG ETIQUETTE

The American Flag should be displayed daily and on all holidays. It is the universal custom to display the national flag only from sunrise to sunset, but the flag may be displayed at night upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect. The flag should be raised briskly and lowered ceremoniously. The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when it is an all-weather flag.

1. The flag should never be dipped toward any person or object, nor should the flag ever touch anything beneath it-ground, floor, water, or merchandise.
2. The flag should never be carried horizontally, but always aloft and free.
3. Never place anything on the flag.
4. Always store the flag in a manner that will prevent it from being torn, soiled or damaged.
5. When the flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning, privately.

Displaying the American Flag

When displaying the flag from an angled or horizontal staff, the blue field should be at the peak.

When displaying the flag horizontally or vertically against a wall, the blue field should be at the top and to the left of the observer.

When displayed in a window, the flag should be hung so that the blue field is on the left when you see it from the street.

If you display the flag next to other flags or pennants, place it on the right side of a single flag or at the center of a group and slightly higher than the other flags. If more than one flag is on the same staff, the American flag should be at the top. The American flag should always be hoisted first and lowered last.

When the flag is displayed on a speaker's platform, it is placed to the speaker's right. Other flags are placed to the speaker's left. If displayed in the body of the assembly, the flag should be on the assembly's right as they face the front.

When displayed from car, the staff should be fixed or secured firmly to the vehicle, ideally on the right side. The flag should never be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a car.

When flags from two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag, or when the flag is passing in parade all should face the flag. Hats should be removed and you should place your right hand over your heart.

Folding the American Flag

1. Bring the striped half up over the blue field.
2. Fold it in half again.
3. Bring the lower striped corner to the upper edge forming a triangle.
4. Then fold the upper point in to form another triangle. Continue until the entire length of the flag is folded.
5. When you get near the end – nothing but the blue field showing – tuck the last bit into the other folds to secure it.