

Creating the perfect guestroom:

You can't expect to change your spare room into the Four Seasons, but there are simple things you can do to make your guests as comfortable as if it were. Here are ten easy and affordable ways to extend a 5 Star welcome.

- **It Begins and Ends with a Good Night's Rest:** Whether they are staying for a night or a week, a trip can be the best or the worst beginning with the quality of sleep achieved. Make sure your guests are able to get the best possible night's sleep by providing the best new or used bed you can afford, add a pillow top for extra luxury. Your guests will thank you for it.
- **Fresh Linens are Crucial:** Don't give your guests mismatched leftovers. Good quality bed linens can be purchased at discount stores, opt for simple white, soft taupe and soothing browns. Think neutral palettes and luxurious fabrics. Remember: Four Seasons! Don't forget extra pillows and a blanket for chilly nights.
- **A Place to Unwind:** Your guests may not want to be entertained every moment. Give them a private place to relax by adding an upholstered chair in their room. If space is tight, opt for a slipper chair.
- **Create Tranquility:** Even if the room serves multiple uses, be sure to clear clutter. Provide some space and extra hangers in a closet, a few empty drawers in a bureau and a clutter free night table by the bed. Add a fabulous touch by purchasing a foldable suitcase stand that can be tucked in the closet when not in use.
- **Good Lighting is Essential:** Use the "Lighting Triangle" method to create adequate lighting. There's nothing worse than staying in a guestroom that looks like a dungeon. Don't forget a good reading light by the bed or upholstered chair and a nightlight in the hall or bath.
- **A Good Read.** Leave a copy of your latest favorite novel or local magazines with points of interest on the bedside table. Your guests will appreciate the thought, particularly if they have forgotten their own book at home.
- **The Little Things.** Ever notice those little signs in hotels that invite you to inquire for a substitute if you've forgotten your toothbrush or other essentials? Why not think ahead by providing a basket with travel size essentials of toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, maybe a spare hairdryer.
- **Does Anyone Have the Time?** How many times have you forgotten to bring your travel alarm clock and stayed in a room that lacked a clock? Purchase a lighted radio alarm clock and your guests will be so appreciative. How about spending just a little more for one that will allow your guests to doc their iPod or Mp3 player.
- **A Place to Recharge.** These days, most guests come with at least one if not multiple electronic devices. Give them a place to "doc" by providing an accessible surge protective cord to plug in to. An added touch is if your home is wired to be "wireless"
- **Final Touches.** A lightly scented candle, fresh flowers, a fresh robe and slippers and a few non-perishable snacks add five star luxuries.