



# “Keep in Touch!”

## American Flag Etiquette

Since September 11th, 2001, our beautiful American Flag has gained popularity and is displayed in abundance. It reminds me of my childhood especially during patriotic holidays like Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. I remember the parades that closed down the main street and the excitement I felt seeing all the Red, White and Blue. Our Flag is such an incredible icon of freedom.

WE at *Electron Top* have always had an American Flag inside our building but we wanted to join the many and show our American Pride to the world so WE moved it outside. This issue brought up questions as to the respectful positioning when a flagstaff is not available. WE all had input as to the proper and improper way to display our flag, but each one of us received an education after reading the “Code of Etiquette for Use of The American Flag.”

WE would like to state that the proper etiquette should be followed without personal interpretation. These are the rules that were set forth for respectfully displaying our sign of freedom. BUT, this was not made part of our newsletter to criticize, bring forth discontent or to pursue self righteousness. It is elating to see our flag being displayed so proudly and abundantly, as it should be.

Our flag should be hoisted on a staff briskly to the top and then lowered ceremoniously and always kept from touching the ground. It should be displayed on all days especially legal holidays, and other special occasions. It is customary to display it from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. The Union (blue field with stars) should not be facing downward, except when signifying distress. It should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

It may be displayed at night, however, on special occasions, and with proper lighting. Note: It flies 24 hours a day at several places including Ft. Mc Henry in Baltimore, M.D. where it inspired Francis Scott Key to write “The Star Spangled Banner”.

Flying our flag at half-staff is a sign of mourning. First, it should be hoisted to the top of the staff briskly for an instant, and then brought down to half-staff. Also, it should be hoisted to the peak again before ceremoniously lowering it for the night. In addition, the flag should fly at half-staff for a limited time, 10-30 days, depending upon the death. On Memorial Day the flag should fly at half-staff until noon and then be raised to the peak for the remainder of the day.

Our flag should be kept clean and in good condition. When it is in a condition no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably with a respectful burning or burial. I usually bury my old flags underneath a newly planted shrub or flower. To me this represents the perpetuation of freedom and life.

Prohibited uses of the Flag are: dipping the flag to any person or thing (exception - saluting ships; Dipping colors). It should never be used as a covering, nor have words, designs, or drawings placed on it. It should not be used for advertising purposes, nor be embroidered or printed on disrespectful items (i.e. handkerchiefs, stools, undergarments) or things you may tread on (i.e. rugs, carpets, and soles of shoes etc.). It also should not be printed or embossed on any item meant for temporary use, discard or disposal (i.e. boxes, flyers, plastic or paper bags). Please make sure flags on vehicles are securely attached, prevent them from falling to the ground and being shredded and destroyed.

This information was taken out of context from “The World Almanac”. WE tried to pass along important guidelines but were unable to print it in its entirety. We found it enlightening and WE will be modifying some of our uses of the American Flag.

WE must express our discontent with the Supreme Courts decision in 1990 which decided that the law **AGAINST** burning and defacing Our Flag in public **IS** a violation of the free-speech guarantee. There are certainly other means of expressing oneself than destroying a symbol of freedom that so many gave their lives for and others who lost so much defending it. Our Flag should not be taken for granted.

“Freedom, Without Responsibility, is Soon Lost!”

Copies of this information, in its entirety are available to you. Please give us a call to request them.  
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