



Self-Catering Holidays

A Short Guide

Everybody needs a holiday....especially mums and dads!



About Self-Catering Holidays—a short guide

We know that self-catering holidays offer parents the best chance to have a really good break and offer the flexibility and space that a hotel simply can't. So what should you expect when you book a self-catering gite, villa or cottage?



Your Home From Home

The first thing to know is that you are booking someone's *home*. It may be a holiday property but the Owner will have put time, effort, love and often considerable money into creating a lovely property. This makes it all very different to being in a hotel – and for the better! It does mean therefore that you will be expected to treat the property and its contents with the respect with which you would treat anyone's home.

When you arrive, you should find the property ready for you, freshly cleaned and often with a small welcome pack of food and drink. This should allow you to settle in and enjoy a glass of something refreshing after a long journey. Unless you have specifically ordered some shopping however, it will have been worth stopping on your way to the property to fill up at the supermarket as they are often not open on Sunday mornings!



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Treat your holiday property like your home

During your stay, you will need to look after the property in the same way you would at home; cleaning up after meals, keeping the oven and fridge clean, cleaning the BBQ after use and sweeping up from time to time. These tasks need not be onerous, and at many properties it is possible to pay for extra cleaning, but they should be done in order to keep the property clean and tidy so that at the end of your stay, it is easy to leave the property as you found it.

What to expect...

Many properties are in rural locations and in warmer climates than we are often used to. Therefore, it may be that there are insects that your children will not have come across, the odd mouse from local fields and rural noises and smells that are part and parcel of everyday life where you are staying. We do our very best to highlight any specific points at each property, but you should set your expectations to match the type of area you have chosen to holiday in.

The type of property may also be unusual – often converted buildings bring great character - but they may also have the odd squeaky floor-board and noise can travel further. In the warmer parts of Europe, you are unlikely to find carpets in rooms.

Unlike a hotel, you will not have room-service 24 hours a day to call on! None the less, you will have details of whom to contact and how should you need any help. Breakages can and do happen (there is a separate guide to what to do) but try and avoid the obvious risks by (for example) bringing in sun shades at night or during windy weather so they do not get blown around and broken.



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And when your holiday is coming to an end...

Lastly, at the end of your stay, you will be expected to leave the property *clean and tidy*. The property will be cleaned after your stay, but there is not enough time to clean a house that has not been looked after before the next holiday makers arrive wanting their glass of something refreshing after their long journey! You should therefore pay particular attention to leaving the kitchen clean.

- Empty and wipe out the fridge
- Clean any spillages in the oven
- Put away crockery
- Wipe tables and worktops
- Clean out the BBQ if you have used it and make sure the grill itself has been cleaned
- Sweep the floors
- Take out rubbish and re-cycling during your stay

Please refer to the instructions left in your property. The rest of the house should be swept and left tidy and the bathrooms should be left clean.



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Consider a 'Walk-out' Clean

At many properties, it is possible to pay a small amount to have a 'walk-out' clean done for you so you need not worry about it. Properties that are left in a poor state are perhaps the greatest source of angst for owners and the arriving families. Please make sure that you understand the need to treat your property as a home and to leave it in a good state at the end of your stay. Thank you!

This is a very short guide that outlines what you should expect when you book a self-catering holiday; the responsibilities are not onerous but it is important that you should know what they are!
