

The following Home Exchange Agreement is taken from the book "Home Exchange Vacationing" by Bill and Mary Barbour, ISBN: 1-55853-389-3, with permission of authors and publisher. The book is available through amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

Generally speaking, home exchangers do not enter into formal home exchange "contracts". They consider the contents of their correspondence as covering all of the important aspects of the exchange arrangements. Nevertheless, some exchangers are accustomed to drawing up an informal letter of agreement related to the exchange. The following suggested agreement includes many of the elements that experienced, agreement-making exchangers feel are important in a document of this nature. The elements of these agreements vary from one exchange situation to the next, but this suggested agreement should be considered as a guide and modified to meet the requirements of a pending home exchange arrangement.

HOME EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

It is the intention of the undersigned persons to engage in a "home exchange" arrangement. That is, we will occupy each other's homes simultaneously during a predetermined time period.

Basically, we agree with the generally accepted and long-standing principle of home exchanging: We will treat our home exchange partner's home in the same way we will expect him to treat ours. Specifically:

1. We will provide each other with detailed information about our homes, including instructions for those appliances we will be using.
2. We will provide each other with the names and telephone numbers for plumbers, electricians, and others to be contacted in emergency situations.
3. We will provide each other with the names and information about the closest neighbors.
4. We will clean the home regularly and comply with the arrangements regarding cleaning on departure.
5. We will lock the home and put security systems (if any) in place when we are away for any period of time.
6. We will provide each other with information as to such overnight periods when we may be away from the home and with information about such overnight guests as we may have.
7. We will adhere to such arrangements as are made regarding the use of the telephone and the handling of long distance telephone charges.
8. We will provide each other with ample closet and drawer space for clothes and other personal items.

