

Welcome to the Garden House on Orcas Island:

We hope you'll enjoy being here. Our goal is to offer clean, quiet accommodations in a setting of both simple and attractive functionality. By signing the rental agreement, you agreed to read this information sheet for details about various items that we'd like you to know about; please feel free to come over to the main house if you have any questions. We don't want to interfere with your visit, but we want you to know we're available to help make your stay a pleasant one.

Smoking:

Please observe a no indoor smoking policy. Those who smoke outdoors, please leave no evidence!

Before you leave:

Please help us by observing the guidelines in the checkout checklist posted on the refrigerator. We sincerely welcome your participation in keeping the building as spiffy as you found it.

Trail to the shoreline:

The trail to the rock outcropping on the shore has some steep and unforgiving places. Please wear good footwear when traversing the trail. Please stay on the trail, to protect both the flora and yourself. We ask that you build no fires on the rock outcropping and pack out any paper, bottles, etc. that you might have brought with you. *Please ensure that the garden gates are closed at all times! The deer will destroy the garden in minutes if a gate is left open.*

Hot tub:

Although the hot tub has historically been working properly over 99% of the time, its functionality is *not* guaranteed. Every effort is made to keep it clean and operational.

Please follow common hot tub usage rules:

The Do Nots:

Do not use the hot tub if you have been drinking alcohol or taking any medication or mood-altering substances. Do not use the hot tub if you have a medical condition which would be made worse in the tub. Please do not smoke while in the hot tub.

Pregnant women should discuss appropriate hot tub use with their physician.

Please be careful getting into and out of the tub. Recommended time in the tub is between 20 and 30 minutes.

Please put the cover back on the tub when you are finished using it.

Please do not turn the heat control down when you finish using the tub. This will leave it toasty for the next guests as well as save electricity.

Firewood:

Firewood is available right outside the door

Wood stove:

The wood stove works very well as a wood stove—if you operate it with the doors closed you'll probably end up opening a window, even with the controls set at the lowest level. During some of our nastiest winter storms, with the wind chill around fifty below, a modest, slow fire produced inside temperatures of 75 degrees.

Housekeeping:

We clean the cabin before you arrive and after you leave. If you are here for more than a week, we will provide you weekly with clean linens and fresh towels. If you wish additional linens and/or towels, please ask us. The additional fee for these items is due prior to your departure.

Children:

A portacrib is available as well as a fold-out futon and a stair guardrail (for toddlers). The following comments are added as safety reminders: parents should not have unsupervised children under the age of 14 in the hot tub; young children in the hot tub should be monitored in order to prevent possible overheating; parents should assess the trail to the water and determine whether their children can traverse the trail unsupervised.

Garbage:

Please put any overflow garbage in the garbage can (in the shed by the main house parking area) and close the shed doors—otherwise the raccoons will get it! Please use a plastic garbage can liner for the can under the kitchen sink. Recycling is available for newspapers, plastics, bottles and cans. Those items do **not** need to be separated—toss everything together—extra paper bags are available for this use.

Heat:

Just set the temperature controls to the temperature you prefer. There is a separate electric baseboard heater for both the bedroom and the sitting room. Please turn the heat down when you leave, and off if you open the windows.

Sound:

You may be unaccustomed to how quiet it is here. Because of the lack of background noise, all sounds travel further than you may imagine. Please keep any outdoor sound you might generate louder than a conversation limited to daylight hours, and note that, particularly at night, normal deck and hot tub conversations may be less private than you might expect.

Gas Stove:

The top burners have pilot lights and will light immediately when their knob is turned—if for some reason they don't light please contact us immediately. The oven has a pilot as well, but when you turn on the oven you will not hear the main burners 'kick on' for almost a minute—this is normal.

Smoke Detector

A smoke detector is mounted on the ceiling in the hall just outside the bedroom door. It is tested frequently to insure the unit is working properly. If for any reason you believe it is not working, please contact us immediately. (If you stand below the smoke detector and look up, you should see a steady green light, indicating that there is power to the unit.) Do not disable the unit by removing the battery. You can use a broom handle to push in the white button on the detector to temporarily disable it for 15 minutes should it go off due to a kitchen smoke incident. The white button has the letter "S" (for silence) on it. There is a smoke detector in the bedroom as well, and it also has an "S" for the silence button.

Bathroom:

The skylight opens in the bathroom. Reach up and pull on the aluminum handle at the top of the skylight—it will 'click' as it opens to preset positions: two clicks and it is free to swing open. Please don't leave it open if it's raining. Please use the bath mat and be sure the shower curtain is inside the shower—otherwise we'll have water downstairs! Use of the fan while showering is recommended.

Charcoal grill:

An outdoor, charcoal grill is available for your use. While we often store it under the eaves, please move it away from the building to use it. (Charcoal and lighter fluid not supplied).

Energy Conservation / Carbon Neutral Program:

We are participating in an electrical energy conservation program with the local electric utility; we participate in this conservation program in order to do our part toward reducing global warming. In addition to replacing all (save 3-way) light bulbs with compact fluorescents and super-insulating the hot water tank as well as the building itself, we purchase green power to offset all electrical consumption, ensuring that the Garden House meets a carbon neutral standard. By far the biggest electrical-energy-consuming devices here are the electric baseboard heaters, the hot water tank and the hot tub. To help us honor our commitment to a sustainable environment, we would appreciate it if you would turn down/off the electric heat if you plan to be gone for the day, at your departure, and anytime the windows are open.

Another way we participate in electrical energy conservation is by reducing the 'peak load' which occurs each morning. To that end, the hot tub has a timer which disconnects the heater element between 6am and noon each day. (The hot tub will stay hot for hours anyway) For most users this may not pose any problem. However, we will be glad to

ensure that the hot tub will be toasty during the morning—just let us know if you would like us to keep the power on.

Separately, the hot water tank has a timer that disables electrical power between 6am and noon. Like the hot tub, the hot water tank keeps water hot for hours. For normal morning use, (a quick shower, washing a few dishes), there is plenty of hot water. However, longer morning showers, or lots of dish washing, may empty the hot water tank. While the power comes back on after noon, (there is plenty of hot water from noon to 6am), it may be more convenient for some guests to have no restrictions on hot water use in the morning. Please let us know if you have a problem with insufficient hot water in the morning and we will disable the timer for your visit.

Parking:

Please park in the space next to the building. This keeps the driveway 'loop' open for everyone, and ensures that when you come in at night, the automatic light will most effectively illuminate your way.

Check out time:

Normal checkout time is 11 am. On days when we do not have another guest immediately following you, you are welcome to stay longer—please check with us if you would like to consider this option.

Phone:

A phone can be made available for making calls; please ask us if you would like to have this service. We ask you to charge any long-distance calls to your credit card. A call made to any destination out of the San Juan Islands is a long-distance call.

Ferries:

The ferries can be a nightmare, especially if you are leaving on a Sunday afternoon or, basically, *anytime* in the summer. Call the Orcas Ferry (Russell's Landing: 376-6253) to find out what time they recommend you arrive at the ferry parking lot to have a shot at the ferry you'd like to take. Don't be surprised if they say something which seems outrageous, e.g., be there at 11am for a 5pm ferry. Rather than spend the entire day in the parking lot, you might consider simply taking the last ferry—this usually means you get home after midnight, but you don't lose most of a day wondering why you came up here in the first place. “Overload”, the term meaning that there are more people (read “cars”) than there is space on the ferry, is common, especially during peak periods—the range of a peak period has been constantly increasing—and the ferry people *usually* will bring in an extra ferry at the end of the day, if necessary, to sweep up the last remaining folks who are trying to get home, thus giving you a good chance of getting on the last boat, regardless of the number of cars ahead of you. Also, most people don't want to get home at 1am so they don't even consider taking the last boat. So, except for a little lost sleep, you can enjoy your day. In any case, call the ferry just to find out.

Refund Policy:

Every effort is made to ensure that the Garden House advertising is faithfully accurate; indeed, surveyed guests indicate that the advertising understates the quality of the building and the amenities. Should a guest choose to leave early, we offer refunds only in cases where the building is clearly uninhabitable (such as a direct strike by a tactical nuclear weapon or a tree which penetrates the building envelope). Appliances which occasionally fail due to misuse or normal wear and tear (from the toaster to the hot tub) do not make the building uninhabitable.

Pets:

Guests who bring pets are asked to faithfully observe the pet policy. If you brought your pet without prior approval, please obtain and sign a pet policy form.

Emergencies:

In an emergency, either use your cell phone (dial 378-4141) or the land-line phone on the first floor (dial 911) to request immediate aid—tell the 911 operator that this is the Symons residence, 3222 pt Lawrence rd; then, if at all possible, come tell us.

Help:

If a car is here, there's a good chance that someone is around the main house. Occasionally we might be out for the day, yet you might have an important but non-emergency need. Use the phone downstairs to call Ruthie (376-5223), Doe Bay Resort (376-2291) or Raenya (376-6421).

The View:

If you read the building history, you'll discover that almost everything about the Garden House is intentional. This quality applies to the location of the building on the property and to the mindful choice of leaving trees between the building and the water. The trees block both the view and the onshore breeze, raising the effective temperature of the garden, and the Garden House deck, several degrees—to the benefit of the plants and deck occupants. Another benefit of ensuring only a partial water view at the Garden House is to tempt guests to take the trail to the water. It's worth it.

Key:

A key is available for locking the outside door if you request it. Security around here is based on the island presumption of honesty.

Creatures:

This is the country. Almost nothing goes bump in the night. Still, there is the occasional mosquito, the extremely-occasional bat or bird, the ubiquitous spiders and flies that can enter the building, especially if the windows are left open. If you are concerned about any of these, leave the windows closed, particularly beginning in the early evening (we're talking summer here). The woods have nettles and thorns; the ground has slugs and the

occasional garden snake. There is nothing that is life threatening but some individuals may have concerns due to inexperience with country life. Please recognize that the property and building exist as part of nature and that you must use caution and common sense if these natural phenomena are unfamiliar to you.

Radio Stations:

The radio is generally set to KPLU, 88.5fm, the local NPR and jazz radio station. Other stations are: KING-FM, 98.1, classical; KSBG, 97.3—oldies rock and roll and KUOW, 94.9, NPR talk.

Body Oils and Sheets:

Occasionally, guests wish to use various oils and lotions in bed. Most of these liquids permanently stain the sheets. If you would like to use lotions and oils, please ask for a set of extra sheets for that purpose—remove the existing sheets rather than put the additional sheets on top of them. We don't consider permanently stained sheets "normal wear and tear"; thus if you stain sheets, you may be asked to purchase a new set.

WiFi:

There is a secured (password required) wifi network in the building. Please let me know if you are having any difficulties accessing the system. The password is printed on a post-it attached to this document. There is also a PC on 24/7 available for use in the studio downstairs, which has an attached printer.

ipod:

The music system in the Garden House has a cable which will plug directly into an ipod, mp3 player, or laptop. To use one of these devices as an input source, insert the black cable into the device's earphone jack and switch the tabletop sound system to "aux" by pressing the function button (on the unit) or the Aux button on the remote. Please let me know how well this option meets your needs.

Food and Other Possibly Helpful items:

Guests often leave unused or partially used containers of basic items (from olive oil and spices to shampoo and conditioners) or items (flowers, bar soap, books, window sill decorations, etc.) Those items that have a long shelf life and may be useful to other guests are left in cupboards in the bathroom and kitchen or in appropriate locations. Feel free to use, consume and/or dispose of any items that obviously fall in this category (except books!) The Garden House does not endorse any of these products or represent that any of them are suitable. We use the FDA GRAS standard: "Generally Recognized as Safe". We remove any items that are inappropriate, obviously unintentionally left (like clothes), or of questionable value.

Additional Guests:

Occasionally a party will invite guests to the Garden House that are in addition to the number originally indicated on the reservation. Often these guests will spend the night. Please let us know at the time of checkin if you expect the number of overnight guests to exceed the number indicated at the time of the reservation. Additional linens and towels are available for a one-time fee due prior to your departure.

Supplies and Services:

In general, Eastsound (about 20 minutes by car) is the place where you can obtain everything from haircuts to cleaning your laundry to car parts. Olga (about 5 minutes) has a post office and a general store (which mostly is a deli but a few staples are available). Doe Bay Resort (about one minute, going east) has a very small store which caters to the needs of travelers. If you have a special need or request, please find me. See the "Help" paragraph above for additional contact information.

At your discretion:

We welcome suggestions for games, creative activities, books, articles, music, art, or ideas outside our imagination that might add to the value of being here.

Suggestions:

We are always interested in improving our service. If you have any complaints, suggestions or ideas, *please* tell us, either in person or in writing, no matter how small (or large) they are.

Above All:

We hope you feel welcome, safe, private, and comfortable. We hope you leave feeling relaxed, refreshed, renewed and restored.