

- [Education](#)

A Homeowner's Guide to Flying the American Flag



Flying the American flag correctly is essential if you want to avoid showing disrespect. Many homeowners are unaware of the rules for flying the American flag at home. They end up making seemingly minor but profound errors.

This causes them to look disrespectful and uncaring of their country. It can also offend and stir up contention among friends and neighbors. By learning how to fly the American flag, you can avoid these uncomfortable situations.

This article discusses different ways to fly the American flag and how to care for it. We also provide a guide to the days to fly the American flag at the end.

Continue reading, so you know how to fly the flag of your country with the respect it deserves.

How to Fly the American Flag

Knowing how to fly the American flag means considering *where* to fly it, such as on your home or car. Plus, you need to know the proper orientation to fly the American flag. Doing so incorrectly can be a sign of disrespect toward the flag and our country.

Rules for Flying the American Flag at Home or on Your Car

The rules for flying the American flag at home include the method you choose to fly it. The most common option is a flagpole. A flag pole can be attached to or independent of your house, though we recommend investing in a [flagpole kit](#) to hang it properly.

When hanging it on your house, you can place it anywhere as long as the orientation is correct. The only exception is if you're hanging your flag next to other flags. We'll discuss flag orientation and other flags shortly.

If you prefer flying the American flag on your car, attach it to the car's frame (the chassis) or the right fender. This keeps the flag firmly connected to your vehicle and provides less risk of it falling off.

Different Ways to Fly the American Flag

Whether you decide to fly it vertically, horizontally, at an angle, in the day, or at night, knowing the different ways to fly the American flag is crucial because it shows respect and patriotism.

Regardless of whether you fly the flag horizontally or vertically, the blue square, which is called the union, should always face upward and to the left. Hanging the flag upside down is actually a sign of danger or threat. Hanging it backward is disrespectful.

The different ways to fly the American flag are limited when it comes to other flags. If other flags share a flagpole with the US flag, the US flag must be at the top of the pole. If it doesn't share a flag pole, it must be hung to the left of the entryway of your house and higher than the other flags.

You also have the option to fly the American flag during the day or at night. If you choose to keep it up at night, make sure to illuminate it with a spotlight or other kind of light.

Flying the American Flag at Half-Staff

Many people get confused when it comes to the terms half-staff and half-mast. Both technically mean the same things in that the flag is halfway up the flag pole instead of all the way up. However, half-mast is a term reserved for flags on a ship.

When the American flag is at half-mast, it's a symbol of mourning and respect. This occurs during certain holidays or when a prominent public (usually political) figure, such as a president, dies.

Flying the American Flag Based on Weather

You can now buy flags that are all-weather flags, meaning they can be hung in almost any weather and not tarnish. Otherwise, you should bring your flag indoors to protect it against rain, snow, or even strong winds. This saves your flag from becoming stained or otherwise damaged.

When and How to Retire the American Flag

Once a flag begins to tarnish or fade, it's time to retire it out of respect, which you can do in several ways. Flags that cannot be repaired should be burned. However, this can be a sign of protest.

If you don't mean to protest the flag, we recommend doing this in a private setting not to give your neighbors the wrong idea. Other options include contacting your local fire department, local [American Legion](#), Ace Hardware, or other resources for flag disposal.

Days to Fly the American Flag

While there are certain days to fly the American flag, you do have the option to fly it daily if you want to.

The most important days to fly the American flag are:

January

- 1st – New Year's Day
- 20th – Inauguration Day
- Third Monday – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

- 12th – President Lincoln's Birthday
- Third Monday – President Washington's Birthday

March and April

- Easter Sunday

May

- Second Sunday – Mother’s Day
- 15th – Peace Officers Memorial Day*
- Third Saturday – Armed Forces Day
- Last Monday – Memorial Day* (half-staff until noon)

June

- 14th – Flag Day

July

- 4th – Independence Day

September

- First Monday – Labor Day
- 11th – Patriot Day*
- 17th – Constitution Day

October

- Second Monday – Columbus Day
- 27th – Navy Day

November

- 11th – Veterans Day
- Fourth Thursday – Thanksgiving

December

- 7th – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*
- 25th – Christmas

Other

- Other days announced by the President of the United States

**Fly the American flag at half-staff*

Flying the American Flag With Pride

Flying the American flag with pride can be done if you know when and how to do so. By learning the rules for flying the American flag, you learn how to show respect for your country. Remember key aspects of flag care, such as preventing it from touching the ground or becoming otherwise damaged.

Make sure to remember the different ways to fly the American flag and that it's always higher than other flags around it. Also, make sure you know how to properly dispose of a flag in case of damage or wear.

For more tips and guides for use in everyday life, head back to our Lifestyle section.