



YMPÄRISTÖ-
MINISTERIÖ

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO LIVING IN FINLAND



Esitteen tilaus:

Työministeriön maahanmuuttoasiat/aineistopalvelu

puh. (09) 18561

Mikonkatu 4, 00100 Helsinki

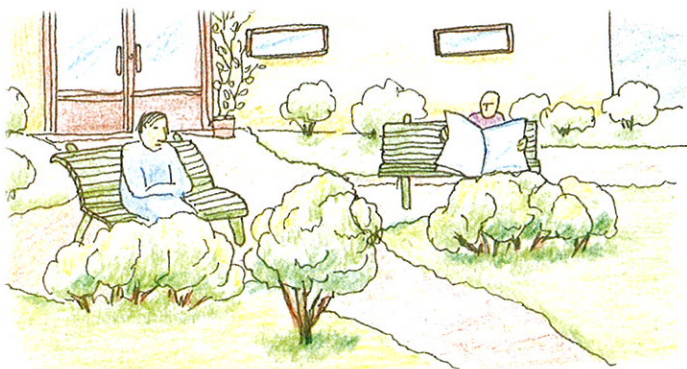
Ympäristöministeriön julkaisut

puh. (09) 19911

Kasarminkatu 25, 00130 Helsinki

Esitteen tuotanto:

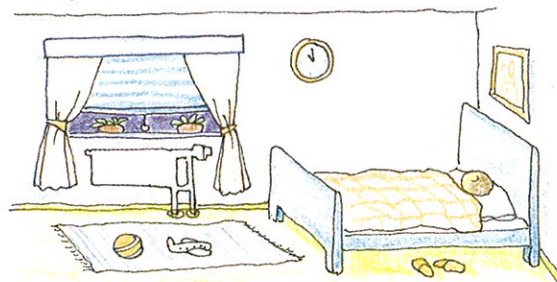
Koillisen sosiaalikeskuksen EU-projekti



1. SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE FINNISH PEOPLE

It is characteristic of Finnish culture not to talk easily with strangers. This does not mean that the attitude towards strangers is hostile. The Finnish people respect others by not disturbing them. If there are some common things they talk but they do not make friends before.

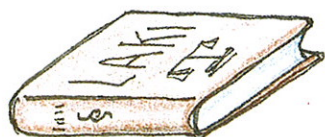
The Finns appreciate silence. If someone makes a noise in the joint facilities or in the balcony many Finns interpret such behaviour as the disturbance of domestic peace and security.



The residents should quiet down for the night on weekdays 22 pm – 7 am and on weekends 23 pm – 8 am. In the night everyone should avoid speaking loudly, playing music or making any kind of noise. During this period when the silence is required the residents respect their neighbours by letting them sleep in peace. Remaining awake makes the residents angry towards the person who constantly disturbs others.

If you are going to have a party at your home it is polite to inform the neighbours beforehand about the duration of the party.

2. HOUSE RULES



When every resident follows the house rules and the municipal rules and regulations it is for the common good. If somebody breaks the rules repeatedly the consequence is that the person disturbing others is given a few warnings and finally he/she can even be evicted.

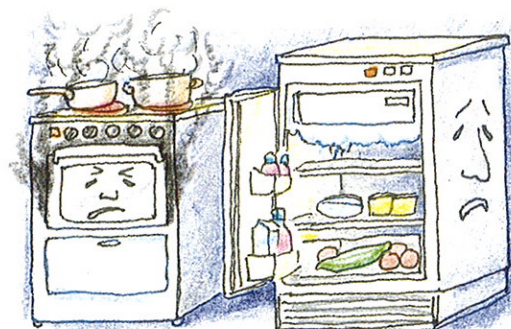
3. APARTMENTS

If the airing of the rooms is not sufficient it may cause tiredness, headache, fever, skin symptoms and respiration problems especially for little children.

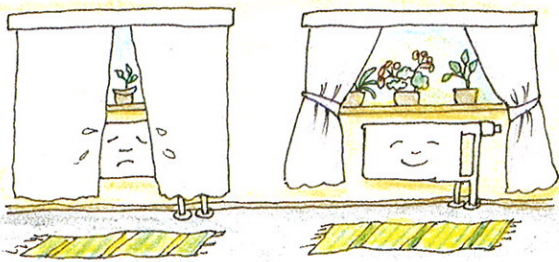


After using the bathroom you can leave the door of the bathroom open so that humidity could evaporate better. It is not

recommendable to dry the washing inside the apartment. You are not allowed to air the apartment by opening the door to the stairway.



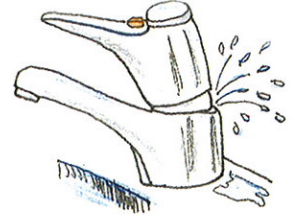
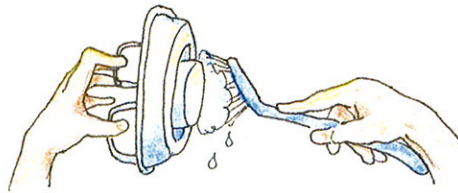
Every resident is responsible for the tidiness and the condition of his/her home. You should avoid the excessive use of the cooker. You should also defrost the refrigerator and the freezer from time to time.



In the radiators there is a thermostat that measures the room temperature. If the thermostat is covered for example by a thick curtain it does not function nor does it warm up the room sufficiently.

If there are insect pests in your apartment you should put them into the pot and show them to the caretaker in order to avoid their spreading to the whole building.

You must keep the balcony clean but you cannot use running water to clean it. It is not permitted to beat and air carpets or bedclothes or grill food in the balcony. You can dry clothes in the balcony if you hang them to dry so that they cannot be seen from the outside.



If there is something that should be repaired in the apartment you should contact the representative of the house-owning company.

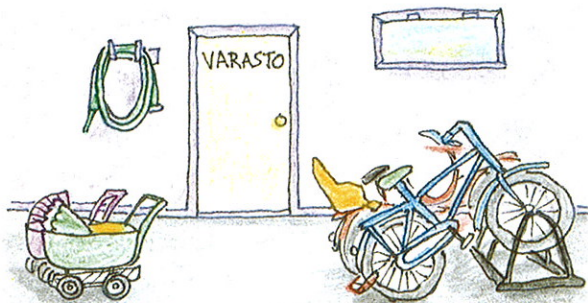
You should clean fat and dust from the filter of the hood, the cooker hood and the exhaust valves in order to keep the air clean and fresh.

4. JOINT FACILITIES

You should not make a noise or litter the stairway. You cannot store your own things in the stairway. Bikes and pushchairs are kept in the bike cellar.



In your own cellar closet you can store things that you do not need at home.



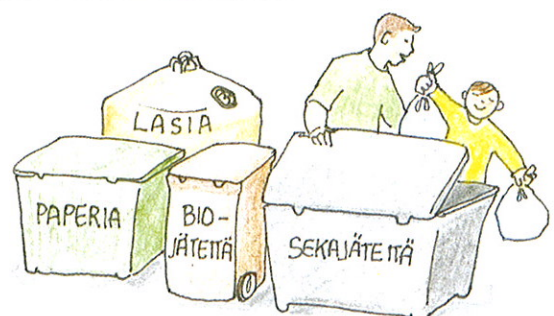
The front door is shut at night. You should not try to keep the door open by means of stones or sticks because those not concerned may come in.

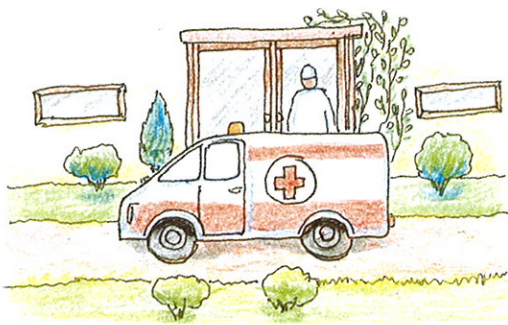
SAUNA	PESUTUPA
18-19 INA HEBEL	8-10 IVAN IVANOVITS
19-20 MATTI MEIKÄLÄINEN	12-14 JOHN DOE
20-21 IVAN IVANOVITS	14-16 INA HEBEL
21-22 SVEN SVENSSON	20-22 MATTI MEIKÄLÄINEN

There are often some quarrels about using the sauna or the laundry that is why it is important to reserve one's own turn beforehand and go then. Nobody wants that others use his/her turn.

5. OUTDOOR AREAS

You should sort out the garbage and take them in a bag to the litterbins reserved for them. You should find out where to take domestic, paper, glass and metal garbage and poisonous substances.





There is a parking place for cars. You cannot park a car in the yard or on the pavement because emergency vehicles must have free access to the doors.

Carpets and bedclothes can be beaten and aired only at certain time.

There is a playground for children where every family takes care of their children's toys after playing. However, if someone forgets toys in the playground others cannot take them to their home.



Domestic pets must be tied up outside. They cannot go to the children's playgrounds and they can not be bathed in the laundry or in the sauna.

6. HOME INSURANCE

The home insurance is not obligatory but it indemnifies the damage caused to the personal property. There should be a fire alarm in the apartment. The insurance does not indemnify the damage if there is not a fire alarm. It is worthwhile to find out which part of the home insurance your own social welfare office possibly can pay.



7. PLEASANT CONVIVIALITY

In the spring and in the autumn the house-owning company organizes a cleaning bee to which all the residents are welcome. In the bee the joint facilities and the yard are cleaned up and the plantings are weeded. At the same time the residents can get to know each other.

9. THE BOARD OF RESIDENTS

There is normally a board of residents in every building. The board of residents cooperates with the board of the house-owning company and acts as an intermediary taking into account residents' opinions and wishes. It is worthwhile for every resident to participate in the residents' meetings. In the meetings one can be voted to be a member of the board of residents and this way he/she can have an influence on the matters related to one's own building. If there are any kind of troubles in housing you can contact the board of residents.



PHONE NUMBERS AND OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO BE REMEMBERED

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 112

POLICE _____

HEALTH CARE CENTER _____

PERSONAL DOCTOR _____

PUBLIC-HEALTH NURSE _____

MATERNITY CLINIC _____

POISONING CENTRE _____

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM _____

DAY CARE CENTRE _____

LOWER LEVEL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL _____

HIGHER LEVEL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL _____

SECONDARY SCHOOL _____

OTHER SCHOOL _____

SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE _____

SOCIAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE (KELA) _____

EMPLOYMENT OFFICE _____

HOUSE MANAGER _____

HOUSEKEEPER _____

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF RESIDENTS _____