

You might be an innkeeper if....

An old Vermont story goes like this:

A young married couple moves to Vermont, and after a few years go by, they have a baby. Proudly, they exclaim to their neighbor, who's lived in Vermont for generations, that the baby is a "real Vermonter."

"Reckon not," he explains. "Just 'cuz your cat has kittens in the oven, doesn't make 'em buns!"

Well, it seems that the same may hold true for innkeepers. Just buying an inn doesn't make you an innkeeper - it takes time. Some long-time innkeepers have been kind enough to their diagnostic skills, so you'll know when you're *really* an innkeeper.

Special thanks to former Virginia innkeeper Mary Lynn Tucker, who started this off with the following advice:

- If your son calls and wants to bring his family home for the weekend, and you ask, "on which major credit card would you like to put that reservation?"... *you might be an innkeeper.*
- If you're having a meal out and find yourself refilling coffee cups all around the restaurant... *you might be an innkeeper.*
- You are finally climbing into bed after an exhausting 18-hour day, and you find the covers turned down and a chocolate mint on your pillow... *you might be an innkeeper.*
- If you're driving down the interstate, and see a sign reading, "clean rest rooms ahead," and you pull off, put on your rubber gloves and get to work with your cleanser and scrub brush... *you are definitely an innkeeper!*

From Janet Buck, Dr. Dodson House B&B, St. Michaels, MD, www.drdodsonhouse.com

You just might be an innkeeper if...

- Your dinner regularly consists of leftover muffins, hors d'oeuvres, or egg strata.
- You've never been able to finish a meal, a trip to the bathroom, and/or lovemaking without answering the phone to take a reservation.
- You make all of your financial decisions based on how many room nights it equals.
- You appear to be interested in a conversation no matter what the topic nor how many times you've repeated it.
- Your personal towels, bathmats, sheets and robes look surprisingly identical to those found in a top-notch B&B except for the fact that they are slightly worn, frayed and/or stained.
- You know each restaurant's phone number by heart and can give directions to any place within a 20-mile radius.
- You haven't installed a full roll of toilet paper in your personal bathroom in years because you're using up those 1/3 to 1/2 rolls.

- Finally, even on days that you absolutely hate your job you can't quit because you're the boss, and besides...tomorrow you'll love that job!

Tamra Black, Inn at Craig Place, San Antonio, TX, <http://www.craigplace.com>

You know you're an innkeeper...when you knock on the closet door before opening it.

Laura E. Dalton, Victoria Gardens B&B, West Plains, MO, www.victoria-gardens.com

You just might be an innkeeper if...you can gauge your occupancy rates by whether or not you're using a new roll of toilet paper! When business is slow, lots of full rolls.

From Juanita Gordon, Gordon's 1841 House B&B, Beverly MA, www.gordons1841house.com

If you strip the bed and change the sheets when your spouse just gets up to go to the bathroom.....you may be an innkeeper.

Susan Allen, Allen's Liberty House, Grapevine, Texas, www.allenslibertyhouse.com

I was letting bread rise and waiting for guests to get up for early coffee -- and when I turned the last corner I did realize I was wearing my Allen's Liberty House apron. No wonder people were waving!

Ellen Gutman Chenaux, Birchwood Inn, Lenox, MA, www.birchwood-inn.com

You just might be an innkeeper if...

- If you are out shopping and suddenly realize you are still wearing your apron.
- You buy sheets and towels by the dozen.

Karen Kulberg, Main Street Inn B&B, Ste. Genevieve, MO, <http://www.mainstreetinnbb.com>

You can't read a recipe without wondering how it would taste for breakfast.

Joyce Schulte, Chambered Nautilus B&B, Seattle, WA, www.chamberednautilus.com

Or....you go out the door of the inn to go shopping, sit down in your car and realize the inn's cordless phone is still attached to your belt loop and.....you feel naked after you take the phone inside to the staff.

Janet Loewenstein, The Stone Lion Inn of Cape Cod, Wellfleet, MA,
www.stonelioncapecod.com

You might be an innkeeper if you are staying at a hotel/motel/B&B and you fix a drawer that's stuck or a leaky faucet.

Laurie Carloni Steets, Evergreen Inn, Spring Lake, NJ, www.evergreeninn.net

You might be an innkeeper if ...

- Your holiday card list is in the thousands -- and includes the staff from WalMart and Home Depot.
- The important men in your life have "the" as their middle name, as in Jeff *the* carpenter, Mike *the* plumber, and Bryan *the* electrician.
- You don't find it odd to bring a little green scrubby sponge into the shower with you to get all of the paint off.
- People you hardly know phone you for recipes and cooking help. If you know all of the answers, you are definitely an innkeeper!

Mary Ann Mayer, Mt. Washington B & B, Shelburne, NH, www.mtwashingtonbb.com

You might be an innkeeper if you overhear a conversation about what to do for the day and you start making suggestions (been there, done that!).

John Nunnikhoven, The Colonial House, Weston, VT, www.cohoinn.com

If you never travel without Bag Balm healing ointment, duct tape and WD-40.