

### **Say it with a Smile!**

Admonitory and instructional signs detract from the gracious atmosphere of your inn, but are occasionally unavoidable. When essential, print out your message in attractive font on the computer, using decorative paper and a small picture frame, or laminating it in plastic. *Water-stained index cards and stick-on paper notes are extremely tacky.* Consider softening the message with a smile, as in the ones quoted below. Be sure to design your B&B to minimize the need for signs.

#### *Pineapple Inn, New Hope, Pennsylvania*

In attempting to take a bath, hot,  
We discovered the water hot, not.  
With an idea bold,  
We switched to cold.  
And what was not hot, hot got.

#### *Unicorn Inn, Kissimmee, Florida*

Proclamation  
From the Coat Hanger Family:  
We, the coat hangers, love our closet, and wearing our  
guests' clothes.  
But, we are a family, and our home is  
The Unicorn Inn  
We do not like traveling in cars, airplanes,  
Or having strange hangers from dry cleaners come into our  
closet to live.  
Because then we get adopted by visiting guests, on an  
exchange basis,  
And have to live in other family closets, all around the  
world.  
We have never applied for a passport to leave with you, so  
folks, when you leave, please  
Do not take us with you.  
We belong here.  
Please leave us in our little house, so that we can get  
dressed up,  
In our next guests' lovely clothes.  
Wal-Mart, K-Mart, and Target, to name but a few  
Have our coat hanger cousins,  
Needing to be adopted by you.

#### *Owl & the Pussycat, Petersburg, Virginia*

Please tread lightly on this floor  
Beneath it we may be trying to snore!  
Please tread softly o'er our bed  
We need to wake up clear of head!  
Please don't flush if it is late  
Surely Niagara Falls can wait!  
Please take baths and splash about  
But before 11 p.m. comes about!  
Please take showers hot and steamy  
But after 7 a.m. would be just dreamy!  
We sleep below as you can tell  
And hope this missive will be taken well.

#### *Saratoga Bed & Breakfast, Saratoga Springs, NY (former owners of a summer-only restaurant)*

Closed for the season.  
Reason?  
Freezin.'

#### *From the St. George Hotel, Volcano, CA*

All us folks with septic tanks  
Would like to give a word of thanks  
For putting nothing in the pot  
That isn't guaranteed to rot.  
Kleenex is bad, dental floss too  
Feminine products are taboo  
With your kind cooperation  
We'll keep our tank in operation

#### *From a B&B in Sharbot Lake, Ontario*

Kleenex, matches, pins and strings,  
Q-tips and other things,  
Country plumbing will reject  
So, urbanite - be circumspect  
It's all a bother and a care  
But - oh, my dear - so necessaire!

#### *Inn at Shallow Creek Farm, Orland, CA*

Our plumbing is can"tank"erous so please do not flush  
anything but toilet paper.

#### *Hummingbird Inn, Goshen, VA*

Our septic tank system has a rather delicate disposition.  
Since a septic upset in would give us all indigestion, we  
request that you help us keep it happy by refraining from  
flushing down the toilet any cloth, plastic or paper waste  
other than toilet tissue. Please use the bags we have  
provided for disposal of such items. Thank you!