



American Flag Etiquette Standards of Respect

The use of open good code Association Office received a call recently from a Veteran upset about the use of the American flag by possible REALTOR® members. Specifically he spoke about houses and using the flag for possible advertising. We thought it would be a good idea to make sure everyone familiarize themselves with the Flag Code. This code formalizes and unifies the ways in which we give respect to the flag and contains specific instructions on how the flag is NOT to be used. The following represents just some of the information you should know about proper use of the American flag. You can go to the website, www.usflag.org to get more detailed information.

- The flag should NOT be used as drapery, or for covering a speaker's desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top!
- The flag should NEVER be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use.
- Advertising signs should NOT be attached to the staff or halyard of the flag.
- The flag should NEVER have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.

When displaying the American flag outdoors there are also some specific rules that should be followed:

- When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.
- When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag's union should be farthest from the building.
- It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during hours of darkness.

This information was taken from the website, www.usflag.org.