

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW Villa 1 Lower...

*The following information is provided to assist you in having a safe and relaxing vacation.*

We are not a hotel. We try to provide you with a different, more private experience than what you would have by renting a hotel room. Our goal is to have you relax, unwind and get comfortable. We want you to think of this home as your home, "*Mi casa es su casa*", and to experience the casual life style of living on the beach. We have provided you with some basic supplies, but if you should need more or additional items there are many local stores that will offer anything you need.

Sand is beautiful on the beach, but it is not good inside the house. It clogs drains and it damages the floor. Please make every effort to keep the sand on the beach. There is an outdoor shower by the beach, please rinse off and wipe your feet before coming in the house. If needed, there should be a plunger in the bath or under the kitchen sink. We should have a mop and broom for your use somewhere in the unit, or inside the laundry room. If they are not there, please let us know. Please do not use our white bath towels as mops!

If you go exploring around the island: 1) Get a good road map, 2) Watch out for Crazy Drivers! Back in the states drivers are taught to drive Defensively. Here the drivers drive Offensively! Drivers are a lot more aggressive. Watch for the unexpected. Do not be afraid to stop and ask for directions. We do have a Tourist map of Rincon available, but because it is not to scale, use it as a guide only. A lot of the local people are not wealthy and live in poorer housing conditions, but they are friendly and are eager to help if you have such a need.

There should be a copy of "Bienvenidos" (Welcome) magazine in the living room. It is put out by the Puerto Rico Hotel and Tourism Association (which we are members) for guests and visitors. Other good magazines are "Que Pasa" and "Places to Go". Both are good sources of where to go and what to do. They have a lot of information, so please take them with you when you leave and start planning next year's trip!

Do not be alarmed by Police cars driving around with flashing lights on at night. They have them on when they are patrolling the streets at night. You will also hear lots of cars with loudspeakers on their roofs driving around. This is disturbing at times, but it is a widely used method of advertising.

Very little major crime occurs in Rincon. What little crime that does occur is "crime of opportunity". Common sense should be used. Example: Do not leave your car unlocked with an expensive camera inside. If you are going to be at the beach, lock the front door and it is advisable to close the front gate by the street. When you leave make sure you do not leave beach chairs on the beach, or anything of value lying around. Make sure you lock all doors. **You are held responsible for any lost or missing items.** Just use common sense and do not invite trouble.

Please help us keep costs down by running the air conditioners only when needed. You did rent a beach house to enjoy the sun, the sand, and ocean breezes; and we have found that if you open the front door and rear patio door, you usually get a great cross breeze. For those days of no breezes and extreme heat, we provide air conditioning. Electricity is *expensive*, so if you leave for the day, shut the air conditioners off. It doesn't take long to cool the house or bedrooms down in the evening. Please turn off lights and fans when you leave, or when they are no longer needed.

Bugs like warm tropical climates. To minimize bugs, ants, etc: keep dishes clean, wipe up spills off the countertops, open bags of food should be stored in the refrigerator, and frequently take the garbage outside to the trash can – which is in front of the house. We have a garbage container located on the inside of the cabinet door, under the kitchen sink. It uses plastic grocery bags for the liner. Make sure they do not have holes in them. Mosquitoes are common in tropical places. You might want to use insect repellent, particularly if it has just rained or the sun is about to set. Wipe up standing water to keep mosquitoes from developing. Most types of flying bugs are attracted to light, so at night, you may want to close the doors, or turn off the lights, so they do not go inside. If you see any small lizards, don't be alarmed. They are harmless and are very helpful by eating a lot of the insects.

Water is precious on most Caribbean islands. Many places even catch rain water for their use. Please conserve and use the water wisely. On occasion the water is turned off. In the event this occurs, we have installed a water reserve system to provide you with your own water supply. Hopefully it is more than sufficient until the water gets turned back on. The water should be “safe” to drink, but many people purchase bottled water at the store.

Once in awhile the electricity might go out for short periods of time (somewhat common on most islands). We have candles in the kitchen that you may want to use. Keep the refrigerator door closed so food doesn't spoil.

**Cautions:** Tile floors inside and out can be very slick when wet. Be very careful walking on the wet tile. A first aid kit is provided and can be found under the kitchen sink. Coconut trees are plentiful on many tropical islands. Please be careful if standing or sitting under a coconut tree. You never know when a coconut may fall. If it hits you on the head it will hurt!

The kitchen countertops are made of very expensive real granite stone. Please do not use anything abrasive to clean them, just use soap and water. Avoid any harsh chemicals. Do not stand or set anything heavy on the countertops. They may crack.

We have a no smoking policy. **Please, NO SMOKING** inside the house. You may smoke outside on the patio

We have security motion lights on the side and back by the grill. They will automatically operate when it senses motion at night. If they do not work, chances are the light bulb is burned out and you should please let us know.

The phone is restricted to local calls and toll free calls only, so **calling cards** are necessary to make long distance calls. The phone number to the entire house is (787) 823-3196. Because many people rent the entire house, the phone will ring upstairs and down. The telephone is provided for your use and convenience, but if someone is staying upstairs, please be considerate and try to limit the number of calls you receive. You must dial the 787 area code even if you are dialing a local number.

If the upstairs unit is rented, PLEASE respect their privacy and do not go upstairs. If no one is staying there, go ahead and use the rooftop sundeck. You can usually find a nice breeze. It is great for watching the ocean and viewing the stars at night. We built a wooden storage unit to protect the lounge chairs from the sun. Please put the chairs back under the storage unit when you are done using them. Be extra careful of the spiral stairs to the top, some of the steps are not the same size and you could trip if you are not careful. Again, tile can be slippery when wet. When you go to the very top - *Please stay on the flat section only!* The light switch for the upstairs sun deck is at the bottom of the spiral stairs. Make sure you turn off the lights when you come back down.

On the south side we installed a BBQ area. Please help keep it clean. This is a gas BBQ. Be sure to turn off the gas after you use the grill. No Charcoal, it will destroy the grill!

If you are staying 1 week or longer, we provide a washer and dryer for your use. They are located off the rear room by the beach outside the covered patio. If the room is locked, contact Gladys at 823-7183. Use the dryer only on cloudy or rainy days. Clothes dryers are somewhat rare, because the sun and wind dry things very rapidly. We have installed a clothesline reel by the hurricane shutters on the north side, and inside the shower. They are perfect for hanging up a wet swimming suit, or wet towels. There should be an iron and ironing board in the bedroom. The top shelf over the closet is a great place to store your suitcases. Since the washer and dryer are shared, please remove your clothes as soon as they are finished, so others may use the machines. If you are staying a week, and mid-week need clean bath towels, simply call Gladys and exchange the dirty towels for clean ones.

We have a small guest storage area that is the room closest to the ocean under the cover patio. Your key should operate the door. There may be floats, and beach/sand toys left by past guests which you may use. If you want additional items, they may be purchased at Kmart or Walmart in Mayaguez.

### **Stereo/TV/DVD**

Please DO NOT rewire our electronic equipment! If you are having problems, or something is not working, please first read these operation directions and if you are still are having problems, contact Hector at 787-823-7183.

The TV has the top 50 channels plus ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox. To operate the TV use the "dish network" remote. To turn the TV on, select TV (next to SAT button at top of remote) and then power (or use the TV remote). The TV should be turned on to channel 4. Make sure the satellite

receiver is on by selecting "SAT" and then power. A green power light should come on. To change channels use the 2 blue buttons above and below the center blue "select" button. Channel 101 lists all the stations and helps you work the remote control. If you have any problems getting a picture try pressing the TV/Video button on the dish remote. This button toggles between TV and video mode.

The stereo in cabinet plays DVD's CD's, MP3's etc. To play CD's on the stereo, the DVD button to the left of the volume has to be pressed. The black switch box on top with all the wires connected to it, selects what speakers play. "A" plays inside, "B" plays outside, and "A" + "B" plays both inside and outside.

To watch DVD movies, make sure the sound switch is turned to "A" (see above for more information), so no sound is heard outside. To watch a DVD in sound surround, go to the receiver (currently an Oritron brand) push the "DVD" button to the left of the volume knob, until Dolby Digital is displayed. Go to the TV (currently a Daewoo brand), or use the remote, and select the left "TV/AV" button on the front of the TV. It toggles the TV between watching the TV, or watching the DVD.

It also has a radio tuner. Most radio stations play Spanish music. If you want an "americano" oldies station, try 98.3. For great jazz music, try to find 90.3, but it tends to be off the air sometimes.

We strive to provide you with a clean and attractive place to stay. We would appreciate your help when you leave by taking all garbage to the trash container outside. Please check the unit prior to your departure to ensure you do not leave any items behind. It is helpful if you leave all the dirty towels and sheets in a pile to be washed and all the dishes that you used are cleaned and put away. This greatly assists us in preparing the unit for the next guests. We do charge if excessive cleaning is required. Any left over food items may be left in the refrigerator. We give away anything left behind to the neighbors in the area that are less fortunate. Check-out is by 10 AM. Please leave the keys on the counter.

One last word of advice - Use Sunscreen! We'd hate to have a sunburn ruin all your fun.

Now, just sit back, read a good book, take a nap or a walk down the beach and enjoy the ocean breezes.

Oh, one more thing..... If you'd like a souvenir of your stay at Sunset Paradise Villas, we now have t-shirts available for purchase for \$10.00 (which includes shipping and any applicable taxes. Just give us a call at 1-800-875-6399 or email us and we can put it on a visa or MasterCard. Our shirts are white with turquoise print and come in sizes large and extra-large and are pre-shrunk.