

## HOUSE SITTERS' TOP 5 TIPS

### APPLY FOR HOUSE SITTING JOBS WITH CONFIDENCE

**House sitting can be a very rewarding experience. But if you're missing critical knowledge, it can be a struggle.**

The first step to house sitting success hinges on your choice of house sitting platform. But if you don't know the qualities to look for, choosing a site from among the plethora of platforms can be daunting – especially if you're a first timer. Our side-by-side [comparison of house sitting websites](#) will help you compare, review and self-select the site best for you.

Then follow our **TOP 5 TIPS** - and apply for house sitting jobs with confidence :)

#### **TIP 1: Write a great profile and include lots of photos**

First impressions count! Your profile is your introduction to the home owner. Sell yourself. It's really important to build the best possible profile to stand out in the crowd. Emphasize your personal attributes. Add photos! Home owners prefer to put a face to a name than communicate with a faceless name on a house sitting website. Upload as many photos as the site will allow, preferably with pets. Posting photos of you in holiday destinations might leave home owners with the impression you're more interested in visiting nice locations than caring for their home and fur family. It's quite something for home owners to entrust property, possessions and pets into the hands of a virtual stranger. Be open and honest about who you are - why you want to house sit, your pet preferences.

**Insider Tip:** It is important to keep your Profile details up to date: especially your next available date. Don't let this date slip into the past! All house sitting websites allow house sitters to update their Profile as often as they wish.

#### **TIP 2: Activate and monitor home owner ad alerts**

It is very important to send your application ASAP after the home owner ad appears on the house sitting website. Because if yours is not among the first five received by home owners, your chance of being noticed diminishes. All good house sitting websites offer house sitters 'alerts'. Alerts work thus – the house sitting site notifies the house sitter as new home owner ads are published that match their preferences. Most sites send alerts by email every 24 hours. Some sites offer alerts at more regular intervals, and some offer Twitter alerts. *For features of house sitting websites visit our [Compare Websites](#) page at [www.comparehousesitting.com.au/which-house-sitting-site](http://www.comparehousesitting.com.au/which-house-sitting-site).*

**Insider Tip:** You must opt in to receive alerts – these are not automatic! Take care setting up your alerts. Read the instructions e.g. does ticking a box denote you want, or do not want, a feature to be included in your alerts? If unsure – seek clarification from the site.

## **TIP 3: Respond to home owner ads ASAP**

As soon as you are alerted of a house sitting job of interest - apply! Don't leave it to a more convenient time. Competition for "attractive" house sits is fierce. House sits of more than four weeks duration come into this category, as do those in major cities and popular holiday destinations.

**Insider Tip:** Be ready to apply for house sitting jobs anywhere, anytime. If you're out and about it can be a good idea to carry a USB stick containing photographs and references so you can attach these to your application if you send it from a device other than your own.

## **TIP 4: 'Make' the time to write a great application**

Your first contact with the home owner is critical. It sets the scene for ongoing communication and will make or break whether you're short-listed. Communication should be less about your needs and more about theirs. Read the home owner ad very carefully and address all the issues raised. Tell the home owner what you bring to the position. Detail all relevant past experience, particularly with animals.

**Insider Tip:** Respect the needs specified by the home owner in their ad. Only respond to house sitting jobs for which you qualify. If the ad says the home owner would prefer a retired couple as they're looking for house sitters who are home a lot, don't apply if you're single and work full-time. To do so is to waste your time and theirs.

## **TIP 5: Communication is key to house sitting success**

Aside from the practical aspects of being available for the period in question, and willing and able to carry out the duties specified, effective communication is key. House and pet sitting is about relationship, relationships are built on trust, and trust starts with communication. Communication with home owners should be timely, courteous, and clear. Give a thorough, not evasive, response to questions. Speak with the home owner as early as possible in the process, either by phone or Skype. By doing this, you both get a sense of how good a 'fit' you are for each other, plus an opportunity to clarify expectations.

**Insider Tip:** It's important to inspire trust on first contact. Attach photo ID and/or a reference or two with your initial contact. Remove the home owners' contact details. These can be supplied as and when both parties agree to go the-next-step.

HAPPY HOUSE SITTING 😊

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