



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## Flag Etiquette Checklist

### DISPLAY TIME:

Fly the flag from sunrise to sunset. It may be flown 24 hours a day when properly illuminated at night.

### RAISING/LOWERING:

Hoist the flag briskly and lower it ceremoniously.

### WEATHER:

Do not display the flag in bad weather unless it is an all-weather flag.

### WALL OR WINDOW DISPLAY:

When displayed horizontally or vertically, the union/blue field should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, meaning the observer sees it on the left.

### MULTIPLE FLAGS:

The U.S. flag should not be placed below another flag; when flown with state/local flags on adjacent staffs, it is raised first and lowered last.

### HALF-STAFF PROCEDURE:

Raise the flag to the peak first, then lower it to half-staff; before lowering it for the day, raise it to the peak again.

### DO NOT LET IT TOUCH:

The flag should never touch the ground, floor, water, or merchandise.

### DO NOT DIP IT:

The U.S. flag should not be dipped to any person or thing.

### DO NOT USE AS CLOTHING OR DRAPERY:

Do not use the actual flag as apparel, bedding, or drapery. Use bunting for decoration instead, with blue on top, white in the middle, and red below.

### DO NOT MARK IT:

Do not place letters, logos, insignia, drawings, or advertising on the flag.

### PATCHES AND PINS:

Flag patches are permitted on uniforms for military personnel, firefighters, police, and patriotic organizations; lapel flag pins should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

### WORN FLAGS:

When the flag is no longer fit for display, destroy it in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

### CASKET DISPLAY:

When used on a casket, place the union at the head and over the left shoulder; do not lower the flag into the grave or let it touch the ground.

## Federal half-staff *flag days* in 2026

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**MAY 3**

**NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Half-staff at all federal office buildings.

**MAY 15**

**PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY**

Sunrise to sunset, unless the day is also Armed Forces Day.

**MAY 25**

**MEMORIAL DAY**

Half-staff until noon only, then raised to full-staff for the rest of the day.

**SEPTEMBER 11**

**PATRIOT DAY**

Sunrise to sunset. Federal law calls for the flag to be displayed at half-staff on Patriot Day.

**DECEMBER 7**

**NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Sunrise to sunset. Federal law calls for the flag to be flown at half-staff each December 7.