

## ➤ What is a home exchange?

It is a non-commercial transaction where two parties agree to exchange homes for free for a specific time. You stay at my home for free while I stay at yours for free.

## ➤ Why is access to Behomm by invitation-only?

For security reasons. It protects our community against anonymous registrants and keeps connections authentic. Behomm is a true network of friends.

## ➤ How can I get an invitation?

To join Behomm, you must be invited either by a friend who already is a Behomm member or by Behomm's founders. To get an invitation from Behomm's founders, you can [apply here](#).

## ➤ Why is Behomm only for creatives and design lovers?

Because part of the success in home exchange is exchanging with somebody like you, with interests in common, you match easily. Our members share a similar passion for beauty and tasteful things.

## ➤ I'm not a creative professional. Can I still join Behomm?

Yes, you are welcome to join if you have passion for aesthetics. Behomm was born strictly for creatives. Once we launched, many of our members wanted to invite their friends with beautiful homes and a love for tasteful things, but some were not creatives. So we decided to open to design lovers also, with the requirement of going through a selection process.

## ➤ What about my valuable things at home?

We've already done seven exchanges and everything went perfectly. But, as a common sense prevention, we lock away a few things.

## ➤ How about payment of home bills: water, gas, electricity,...?

If you use a reasonable amount of water, gas and electricity during your exchange and the bills are typical for the homeowner, they will pay their own bills as usual.

## ➤ I live in a property that I rent. Can I exchange?

As there is no economical transaction, the exchange is not a sublet. It's more as if you invited friends to your home. But as a courtesy, it's better to ask the home owner.

## ...> Can I exchange homes as many times as I want?

Yes. There is no limit on the number of home exchanges you can do.

## ...> How can I exchange with friends of my friends?

On Behomm there's a search engine for finding your friends and listing them. Then you'll be able to see all of their friends' homes and consider exchanging with them.

## ...> Am I limited to exchanging only with my friends and their friends?

Certainly not. You can exchange with any member of the community.

## ...> Is it safe to exchange with members that are not friends of my friends?

Before you exchange homes, you will email with your exchange guests many times to agree on details... so you get to know them well enough that they should no longer be strangers.

## ...> Why should I exchange homes instead of staying at a hotel?

Apart from the fact that you'll save money:

- 1. Enjoy the comforts of a home:** much more space... and things owners often have, like toys for kids, movies, music CDs, books, magazines, computers, video games...
- 2. Get a real taste of life as a local, not a tourist:** follow partner tips that don't appear in the travel guides... eat at their favourite restaurants... shop at local markets... meet neighbours...
- 3. Enjoy cultural exchange:** meeting your guests can be a very enriching experience, you'll learn from this cultural exchange...
- 4. Make personal connections:** the people you exchange with may become good friends...
- 5. Keep your home cared for while you're away:** insurance companies advise that your home is safer with people living inside than empty.

## ...> What is the most important thing in home exchange?

- 1. Cleaning of homes:** it's very important to thoroughly clean your home and leave your exchanger's home as clean as you found it at arrival (you can also exchange the cleaning at departure).
- 2. Considering exchange partners to be your guests:** this is the attitude of home exchange... It's not just about finding free accommodations and saving money... Our exchange guests picked us up at the airport, put out nice sheets, provided some food for our arrival... we did the same... this is the spirit of home exchange!

## ...> Can I list my home for rental at your site?

No, we are sorry. Behomm is only for home exchange. Renting is a totally different trip experience. Home exchange is about sharing and meeting people, while renting is about making money.

...> **Will other members see my email?**

To protect your privacy your email address will never be public on Behomm.

...> **How do members contact each other?**

Using our internal and secure message system. You'll receive an email to alert you of a new message, similar to how Facebook works.

...> **Can I do non-simultaneous home exchanges?**

Yes, it's up to you and your exchange guests. We've personally done several non-simultaneous exchanges and it worked excellent.

...> **How many days can I exchange homes?**

As long as you want... you can exchange homes for the period of time you agree upon with your exchange guests... a long weekend... a week... a month... even a sabbatical year...

...> **Can I exchange with a home bigger than mine?**

Yes! Your home may have a special feature: city center location, sun, beach, ski resort, great views, architectural value,... it's common that city members exchange with bigger homes outside of cities...

...> **Why isn't Behomm free?**

Because payment is a filter of quality. We personally have joined some free home exchange sites and the homes were quite disappointing; also because we love clean design, so we decided not to have advertising and avoid annoying banners.

...> **Which professions are included?**

Please take a look at our professions list.

...> **Do you verify member professions?**

While there is no absolute method for verifying member professions, Behomm does execute a process intended to confirm professional design work. We also suggest you exchange work websites with your potential guests.

...> **How does my home insurance work?**

Check with your insurance company that you're covered while your home is occupied by your guests.

## → Is there an exchange agreement?

We provide a simple PDF agreement for writing down clearly the exchange details: date of arrival, key exchange, address... We encourage members to fill it out to avoid misunderstandings.

## → Is Behomm involved in the agreements between members?

Behomm is just a place for members to contact other members to do home exchanges. Behomm is not involved in the agreements between members.

## → What are the most important tips for an exchange?

1. Exchange with members similar to you: with kids, no kids,...
2. Get to know your guests through emails, phone calls, skype,...
3. Fill out an agreement to avoid misunderstandings.
4. Leave your home very clean and in order.
5. Treat your exchange partners as your guests.

## → Can I also exchange cars?

Quite many people do it, as you can save on car rental costs. But before you make the agreement, check that your insurance policy allows your exchange guest to drive your car.

## → What about pets?

You can agree to exchange pets too... but most home exchangers usually leave their homes free of pets.

## → How about doing home exchange with kids?

Your family may enjoy of two great benefits:

1. **Comfortable accommodations:** if you exchange with a family similar to yours in size and structure, with kids of similar age, the home should have toys, video games, highchairs, cots... and be a child-safe home.
2. **Educational value:** home exchange is so educational for kids, they learn to share... their bed, their toys,... their things... a useful value for their future... they will be more flexible and open

## → Don't you feel strange in a home that is not yours?

Many friends ask us this question... on our first exchange we did feel a bit strange at arrival... now we look forward to our next exchange... it's a special feeling... like living another life...

**...> What is “hospitality”?**

Besides home exchange, members can also do hospitality. It means that a member is open for hosting other members while she is also in her home. Usually for a short period (2-3 days max.).

**...> What is the “Have a Coffee” feature?**

When a member has this feature listed at her account means that she is open to meeting other Behomm members for a coffee while they are on a trip to her location.

**...> Why did you create Behomm?**

We're passionate home exchange travellers, we got captured by some ideas we couldn't get rid of them:

- 1. SIMILAR PEOPLE:** we could connect all creatives and design lovers to exchange homes... like-minded people, with a similar passion for beauty and tasteful things and avoid all the time we were wasting in other exchange sites searching for people like us.
- 2. SECURITY:** we could build a secure community of friends by invitation, avoiding anonymous people.
- 3. SHARE FRIENDS:** we could share friends... listing them like in Facebook... and exchanging with the friends of our friends... a new and more trustful type of home exchange... creating the first social community worldwide for doing home exchange.
- 4. CLEAN DESIGN:** we could design a site with the clean design we like and didn't find.

And above all, we do believe this is the way of the future for travel within our community... sharing homes and friends... useful for many people... maybe we're crazy.

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**Warning: Home exchange is addictive!**

After an exchange, you'll reaffirm your faith in human beings...  
you enjoyed life without paying any money... people shared what they had...  
you'll feel a better world is possible!