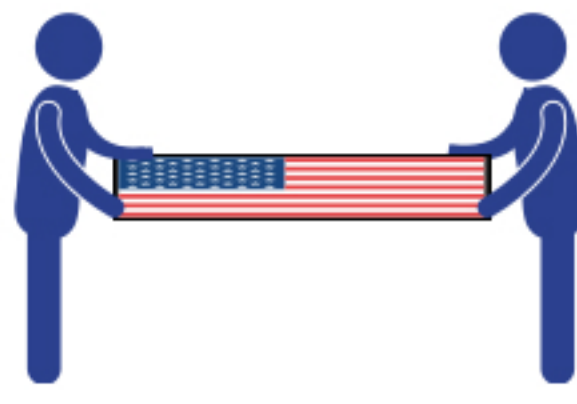


★ HOW TO ★ FOLD AND STORE A FLAG

How to Fold a Flag

★ STEP 1

Using two people, stretch the flag out and hold it waist high.



★ STEP 2



Fold the flag in half lengthwise — stripes over stars. Be sure to offset the edges so that no red is showing when the flag is completely folded.

★ STEP 3

Fold it in half again lengthwise, keeping the stars on the outside.



★ STEP 4



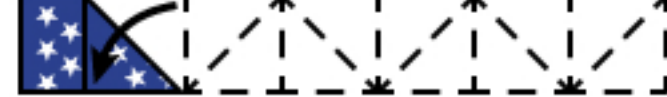
Beginning at the striped end, make a triangle fold.

★ STEP 5

Fold it over again, making a second triangle.



★ STEP 6



Continue making triangle folds until you reach the end.

★ STEP 7

Tuck the edges into the triangle to secure the flag. When completely folded, you should only see the blue field of stars.



FUN FACT:

It takes 13 folds to fold an American flag. This represents the 13 original colonies.

Rolling Technique

Leaving a flag folded for long periods of time can lead to permanent creases. Avoid this by rolling it instead. Here's how:



★ STEP 1

Place the flag on a flat surface.

★ STEP 2

Cover it in acid-free paper.

★ STEP 3

Start at the end away from the stars and roll the flag, smoothing out creases as you go.

★ STEP 4

Place inside a mailing tube to protect from the elements.

Moving and Storing a Flag



PROTECT IT FROM DUST

Store the folded flag in a display case or air tight container. You can also store it short-term in a large plastic bag.



KEEP IT IN A DARK PLACE

Light can cause the colors to fade, so it should be kept out of direct sunlight.



AVOID HARSH CONDITIONS

Humidity and extreme temperatures can damage the fabric. Best practice is to keep it in a temperature-controlled environment.

Flag Care Tips



DON'T LET IT TOUCH THE GROUND

According to the U.S. Flag Code, the flag shouldn't touch whatever is beneath it. This includes grass, flooring and furniture.



RETIRE IT PROPERLY

If a flag is damaged, worn or has touched the ground, it should be properly retired. Many civic organizations have ceremonies throughout the year, and you can take your flag to them.



FOLLOW DISPLAY PROTOCOLS

There are several rules for displaying a flag both indoors and outdoors. These include letting it fly free and always keeping it upright.

SOURCES:

<http://www.usflag.org/foldflag.html>

<http://www.military.com/flag-day/flag-etiquette-dos-and-donts.html>

<https://www.nps.gov/Museum/publications/conservation/16-05.pdf>