
AMERICAN FLAG PROTOCOL

Displaying the American Flag with Pride and Respect

BuildingsOne | April 29, 2019

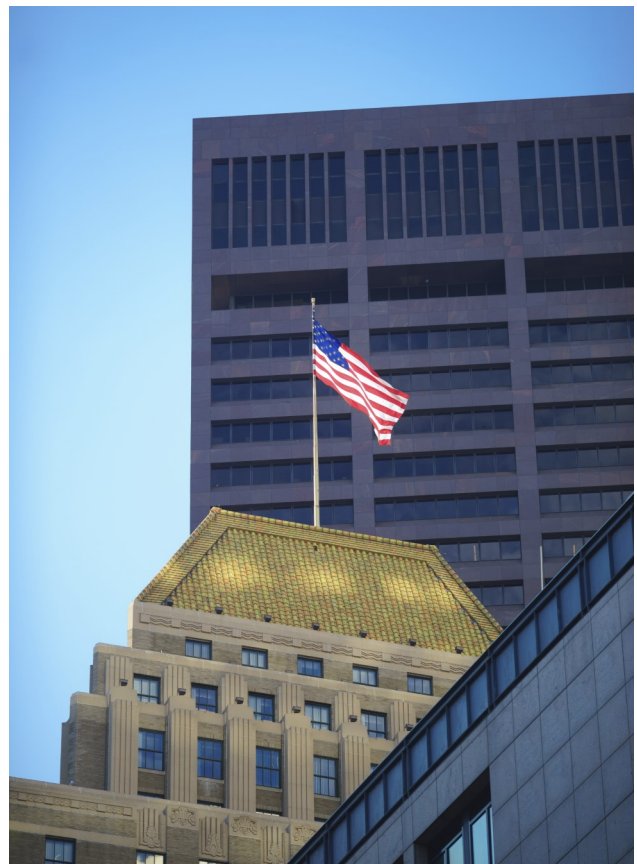


The real estate professional's insight into proper application of American flag protocol and procedures, will provide facility owners, tenants, and visitors with an overall sense of pride and patriotism. The American flag is often prominently displayed, at many corporate and multi-tenanted investment properties, with specific requirements at government-owned and leased facilities.

The building owner-manager's understanding of proper protocol, etiquette, and codes for display and handling of our nation's flag, is an important aspect of the daily operations at our properties.

Procedures, regarding raising and lowering, flying at half-staff, horizontal & vertical display, proper lighting, folding requirements, and general customs and responsibilities are essential to our respect in what the American flag represents.

This article provides insight into American flag protocol concepts and applications. American flag related web-site links are referenced, including a brief description of what these sites have to offer, in supporting property owners & operators in American flag display & protocol requirements.



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American Flag - Standards of Respect

- ◇ The blue field, with the 50 stars, is referred to as the **union**.
- ◇ The flag pole, whether in the ground or attached to a building, is generally referred to as a **flag staff**.
- ◇ When describing the position of the flag, relative to its position with other flags, the word '*right*' is the 'flags own right' which means the 'viewer's left'.
- ◇ When displayed with another flag, e.g., on either side of a speaker's podium, the **American flag should be positioned to the viewer's | audience's left - flag's own right**. The same applies when our nation's flag is flown on a staff with one other flag on an adjacent staff; the American flag is positioned to the viewers' left and always at an equal or highest point.
- ◇ When displayed **either horizontally or vertically** against a wall or building, the **blue field 'union' should be uppermost and to the observer's left** (flag's own right). The same would apply when the flag is displayed in a window so that observers, outside of the building, would view the flag with the union positioned on the top left portion of the flag.
- ◇ When different flags are flown, on multiple (two or more) adjacent staffs of **different heights, the American flag is flown at the center and at the highest point in the grouping**.
- ◇ When the American flag is flown on the same staff with another flag (s) of States, cities or localities, it should always be at the peak.
- ◇ When the our nation's flag is displayed in a manner other than from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out.
- ◇ When outdoors, the American flag should be displayed only in **daylight conditions** or, if after sunset, **properly lighted**.



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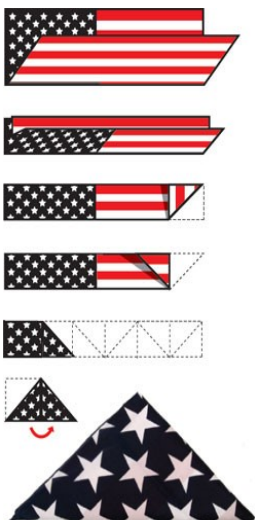


American Flag - Standards of Respect

- ◇ The flag should never have anything attached to it or marked on it.
- ◇ The flag should never be used for advertising purposes.
- ◇ The flag should never be used as a covering (furniture), drapery, clothing or for any decoration in general.
- ◇ The flag should be clean, repaired or replaced when torn, should not touch the ground, and should be folded and stored tidily when not displayed.

Web site	Features
www.halfstaff.org	Upon request, includes U.S. President's half-mast proclamation notification to the registrant, via e-mail
www.usflag.org	An abbreviated, informal outlining of American flag procedures for displaying, raising, lowering and other flag protocol. Search 'flag etiquette'
www.ushistory.org	U.S. 'national' code requirements pertaining to the U.S. flag. Search 'flag code'

Helpful American Flag Protocol Web-Sites



When removing and storing the flag, it should first be properly folded. This is performed by first folding the flag lengthwise 2x then folding the flag into a triangle shape so that only the blue field, 'union', is shown. The most common method for respectful and correct disposal of the American flag is by folding the flag and burning. A proper burial method is less frequently performed but provides an alternative to burning. Because flag material has changed over the years, from cloth to synthetic materials, shredding and recycling (in lieu of burning) can be performed by companies qualified in providing this service.