



Shoes on **or** Shoes off?

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Many homeowners have gone through extensive planning to design a practical, attractive area where shoes may be taken off and stored neatly before entering the home. Cute baskets, boxes, special hooks, and nooks can be found right by the front door!

There are usually signs placed at the front entry, requesting kindly, and perhaps in a playful way, to drop shoes at the door. Some have placed comfortable chairs nearby, encouraging visitors to sit down, take their shoes off, and pop them onto an outdoor shelf. Most likely when you enter the home, you will find some comfy booties, slippers, or special sandals to slip into.

More and more these days, household members are requesting that their family and guests remove their shoes. Some of us are very happy to slip off our shoes, especially those who prefer to walk barefoot in our own home but there are others who prefer not.

A recent 2023 poll suggests that nearly two in three Americans are taking their shoes off before entering the home, but do not necessarily request that their guests remove their shoes.



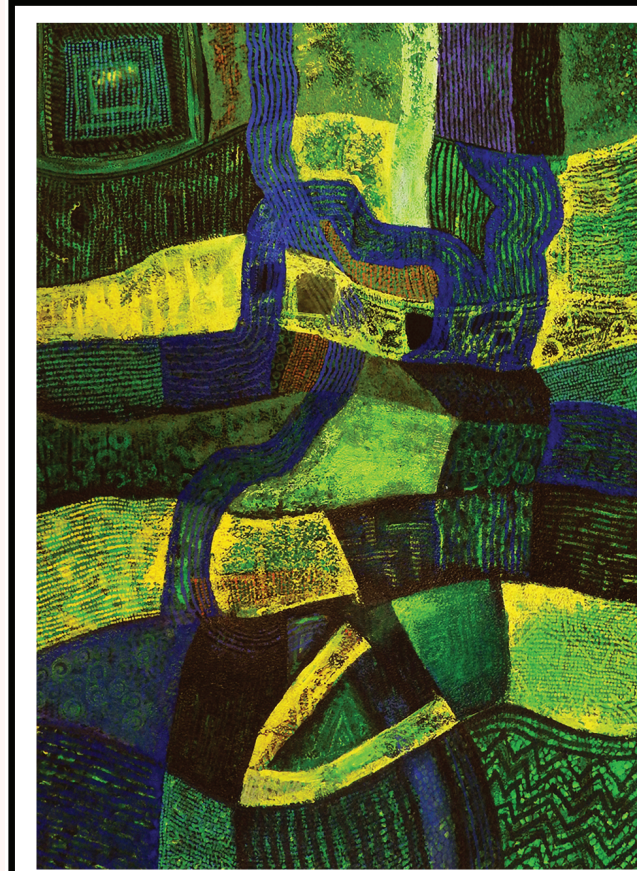
The tradition of removing shoes before entering dates to when immigrants arrived with their unique customs and traditions. Leaving your shoes at the door was known as showing great respect for the host of the home.

Today, taking off shoes before entering a home is a working practice throughout Middle Eastern and Asian countries as well as in the States and especially in Hawaii. While this tradition may have started out mainly about respect, quite a bit of research supports the fact that the bottoms of some



shoes have multiple crevices that can hold dirt and bacteria, so the practice of taking them off has proven to keep germs from shoes out of the home.

“Foot” Note...So, yay or nay—shoes on or off?



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