

OPINION

Modern Manners

Do you remove your shoes before entering your home?



Some people forbid shoes in their homes, while others consider being asked to remove their shoes as offensive. It is a custom for almost everyone all over the world to remove shoes/sandals before entering the house. Many of us have complex and confusing emotional responses to this issue. It is a mark of respect to the house and to honor its cleanliness and purity. Most people follow this custom and few might have the habit of using shoes even inside the house for some health reasons. They have special sandals to be used inside the house. The footwear that was used while roaming outside on the roads must not be used inside the house. For those who do not share this habit, a good reason to consider initiating it is grounded in the pollutants they carry in from the outside world. The benefits of removing shoes are many:



- **Comfort**- no matter how comfortable our shoes are, our feet are happier outside them.

- **Unwanted dirt, germs and other nasty things** - to avoid animals' waste/fluids, pesticides, germs, disgusting things and mud entering the house.
- **Spiritual**-the house is considered as a special place ,a sanctuary, a temple
- **Keep house clean**-*Less time is spent in cleaning*
- **Healthy place**-Infants and young children with more sensitive immune systems inhale cleaner indoor air.

Shoes are generally used to protect our toes and sole of our feet from contact with dust and all sorts of impurities in the outside world. As it is obvious that the shoes are filled with dirt they are avoided to be used inside the house. As it is unhygienic to wear shoes inside the temple, it is considered a mark of disrespect to use shoes inside the house. The house/home, as described in our holy books and also through the teachings handed over by our forefathers from generation to generation has been considered as a holy place similar to a temple. It is a place where apart from our normal day to day activities, we perform prayers to God. Almost all people of all religions will remove their shoes while they pray to God. Removing the footwear before entering the house is humility and respect shown towards the Lord. Not only removing the shoes, even wearing clean clothes and keeping the body clean is also important in the house.