

Living with Roommates

In order to save on rent, you might want to consider sharing your home with friends, aka “roommates.” That way you can split the rent by the number of tenants and save a ton of money. Seriously, splitting \$1500 three ways is a whole lot better than paying \$1500 by yourself.



First, the number one, most important thing you should do when you find two or three friends you want to live with:

Make sure everyone’s names and signatures are included on the apartment (or house) lease or rental agreement.

This ensures that all parties involved have made the commitment to be responsible for the rent as well as any terms included in the agreement. *(Things like late payments and the condition of the home when you all decide to move out.)*

Now here’re a few other things that are not talked about in a lease or rental agreement. You need to get answers for all these questions before you decide to move in with anybody:

- ... Who will sleep where?
- ... What do everyone’s work, school and sleep schedules look like?
This will help everyone to be aware of when quiet time is needed.
- ... What will the guidelines be regarding visitors?
This discussion might include when friends can come over based on everyone’s work, school and homework schedules. You should talk about evenings, weekends and overnight stays. And while it should be understood that each person is responsible for the behavior of their visitors, it is worth talking about up front.
- ... How will housework be split up?
This might include discussions about keeping the common areas of the house



clean such as the living room, bathroom, and kitchen.

In regards to the kitchen, you should discuss meal preparation as well as subsequent clean up.

- ... How will you handle grocery shopping? Will you share things such as milk, eggs, and cereal?
This discussion might include where each persons' groceries are to be stored.
- ... How do you all feel about sharing personal items such as dishes, glasses, towels, silverware, pots and pans, toilet paper, soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, clothes, etc.?



These are just a few topics you should discuss with potential roommates. You may also want to consider a Relationship Agreement, so you don't end up all kinds of pissed off at each other and losing good friends.

[Click here to learn about Relationship Agreements.](#)

To learn more about the roommate experience, talk with your parents or other friends.

To learn more about living on your own, get this great resource:

[Shifting to the Business of Life](#)

Sincerely,

Jan

