

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.

The most important thing you should do in a roommate situation is to make sure everyone’s names and signatures are included on the lease or rental agreement. This ensures that all parties involved have made the commitment to be accountable for the rent as well as any terms included in the agreement, such as the condition of the home.

Here are a few things that should be discussed *and agreed upon* amongst roommates that are not talked about in a lease or rental agreement:

- 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 visitors are welcome based upon work, school and homework schedules. 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 the 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. To learn more about the roommate experience, talk with your parents or other friends.