

## HomeOwner – Be Prepared. Know What You Want From HomeSharing

December 21, 2020

As you explore the idea of HomeSharing, these are some questions to ask yourself. Having a clear idea of what to expect and anticipating the answers makes for a satisfying HomeShare. Please also take a look at the [Sample Living Together Agreement](#) for additional ideas

**Why homeshare?** A feeling of community? Security? Able to offer more affordable housing than traditional rentals? Flexibility of lease—month-to-month? Companionship? Bartered services needed? If so, which ones? (NOTE: a housemate sharing your home is not an employee and is not obligated to provide any services not specified in the Living Agreement)

**Furnished rooms or Unfurnished:** Are you offering a furnished or unfurnished (or partially furnished) room? Are there furnishing you do not want a housemate to use? Do you have storage to offer for the housemate?

**Finances:** How much are you asking for the space and will there be utilities included or apportioned? Do you have a means for determining apportioned utilities? Do you have Wi-Fi? Cable?

**Trust, Respect and Flexibility:** Can you keep agreements you make and trust this housemate and respect their needs and be flexible?

**Noise levels:** TV, talking, radio, parties, loud music etc. (What kinds of noises are you comfortable with or will reduce if asked?)

**Cleanliness habits:** What level of tidiness and cleanliness are important to you in the common and shared areas?

**Smoking:** Are you placing smoking restrictions in the home? Are you okay with my house mate smoking in the home, or only outside?

**Guests:** Are you okay with the housemate entertaining guests? How often might there be friends or family visit? Do any of their guests have children or pets? How will you handle requests for overnight guests?

**Private areas and shared/common areas:** Are you offering to share your full kitchen or are you offering use of a kitchenette (microwave, mini-fridge and sink)? Will you share kitchen cookware?

**Tasks and Responsibilities:** Who will be responsible for taking the trash out, cleaning up pet hair, scrubbing the toilets and other household and garden/lawn chores.

**Allergies, sensitivities:** Are you scent-sensitive? Will your housemate need to remove scented candles, air fresheners or strong perfume/colognes from common areas? Are you willing

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to be cooperative with their allergies or other sensitivities?

**Parking, storage and garage use:** Do you have space in a garage for the housemate's car? Do you have space for bicycles, motorcycles, kayaks or other items that need to be stored indoors or under cover? Where will the housemate park?

**Pets:** Do you have pets? Does the potential housemate have pets? Are you interested in sharing a home that has pets? Will pets be allowed in only private areas or private and common?

**Food and meals and shared items?** Would you be interested in sharing some meals, or cooking meals in common? How do you feel about sharing utensils and/or food items?