

Home Seeker – Be Prepared. Know What You Want From a HomeShare

December 21, 2020

[As you explore the idea of HomeSharing, these are some questions to ask yourself. Please also take a look at the Sample Living Together Agreement for additional ideas](#)

Why homeshare? A feeling of community? Security? More affordable housing than traditional rentals? Flexibility of lease—month-to-month? A nicer home or neighborhood than you could afford alone?

Furnished rooms or Unfurnished: Do you prefer the room furnished or unfurnished (or partially furnished)? Should you get a storage room to store extra belongings you won't need for daily living? How much storage do you need in a home share?

Finances: How much can you afford to pay for a room and utilities? Does this amount leave you with adequate money to pay other bills and living expenses?

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 and can reduce if asked?)

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

Smoking: Are you willing to follow smoking restrictions in the home? Are you okay with a housemate smoking in the home, or only outside?

Guests: Do you plan on having guests for entertaining? How often do you have friends or family visit? Do any of your guests have children or pets? Do you require that your selected home share situation allow overnight guests?

Private areas and shared/common areas: Do you need the use of a full kitchen or will you be content with a kitchenette (microwave, mini-fridge and sink)? Will you need 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 chores. Are cleaning supplies provided and shared? Is there a vacuum that can be shared?

Allergies, sensitivities: Are you scent-sensitive? Will the home share housemate need to remove scented candles, air fresheners or strong perfume/colognes from common areas? Are you willing to be cooperative with their allergies or other sensitivities?

Home Seeker – Be Prepared. Know What You Want From a HomeShare

December 21, 2020

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

Pets: Do you or anticipate having pets? Are you interested in sharing a home that has pets? Is there a fenced yard? Will your pet 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?

Write down any other specific questions that come to your mind.