



## Is Your Potential Roommate/Housemate Right for You?

### What do you want to look for in a roommate/housemate and what do you want to avoid?

You might want to consider sharing accommodation if you are looking to reduce costs and you like the company of others. It's not for everyone though, as it can be challenging at times. A good first step is to decide what you're looking for in a roommate and what you want to avoid. The table below will help you track your preferences. For example, consider whether you would like to live with someone quiet who keeps to himself/herself or someone who is outgoing and often invites friends over to socialize.

What you look for	What to avoid



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### Discussion questions for you and your potential roommate or housemate

Before you move in with a potential roommate or housemate, it is important to discuss with them who will handle certain tenant responsibilities, and identify issues that might arise and how you would deal with them. Track your responses in the table below and make note of any potential areas of disagreement that might make living together difficult; this will help you decide if this option is best for you.

Questions for Discussion
<p><b>Paying Bills and Rent</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How will bill payments and rent be divided?</li><li>2. Will everyone pay the same amount or will the person with the bigger room pay more?</li><li>3. Will each person pay the landlord separately, or will one person collect the money and pay?</li><li>4. Who will put the utilities, phone, cable etc., in their name(s)?</li><li>5. Does anyone have a bad credit history? If yes, what safeguards is she or he putting in place to ensure her or his bills get paid now?</li><li>6. If one of the roommates doesn't pay her or his portion of the rent, what happens? Do you have separate agreements/leases with the landlord?</li><li>7. How important is it for you to pay your bills on time? Are you concerned about maintaining a good credit rating?</li></ol>



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### Questions for Discussion

#### Food and Household Supplies

1. Will groceries be bought together or separately? Who will do the cooking?
2. How will you divide common expenses such as toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and garbage bags?

#### Housework

1. How important is neatness to you? Does it fit with your roommate's idea of neatness?
2. How will cleaning be divided? How often does cleaning need to happen? Would you like to set up a schedule?

#### Habits

1. Do you smoke? Do(es) your roommate(s) smoke? Where will smoking be allowed - inside or outside?
2. Drinking and/or other drugs—are these things okay to do in your apartment? Alone or with guests?
3. Do you wake up early or late?
4. Do you need quiet time? Does the TV or radio bother you?
5. What about parties?
6. Can friends and family just drop by?
7. Will it bother you if your roommate's friends or family stay over? Does it depend on when and for how long?
8. What about pets? Does this depend on the type?



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### What to ask when considering sharing a unit with the landlord and/or her or his immediate family

Accommodation that is shared with the landlord and/or her or his immediate family may not be protected by the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA). Visit [www.cleo.on.ca/english/roommates](http://www.cleo.on.ca/english/roommates) to determine if the RTA applies to your circumstances. If it doesn't, it is important that you clearly understand what is expected of you as a co-resident, and the likelihood that you will be compatible and able to resolve disputes respectfully. In the absence of the RTA, you may have limited recourse to challenge expectations and consequences that you believe are unfair, such as being required to vacate the unit under short notice.

#### Questions for discussion

1. Will I be expected to help around the house with chores? How many hours a week would be likely?
2. Can my family and/or friends come and visit and stay overnight?
3. What areas of the house will I be sharing and which areas would be off limits to me?
4. Will I have access to the kitchen and other shared space, including the yard? Will there be any restrictions on my access (e.g., time of day)?
5. What will be expected of me in terms of socializing? (Will I be expected to share meals and watch TV together, or will I be expected to stay in my own room most of the time?)
6. Will the bedroom be furnished? Can I bring my own furniture?
7. How will the duties of grocery shopping and preparing meals happen?
8. Do I have mobility issues that would need to be taken into consideration for accessibility? If so, what are they?