

Roommate Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Choosing a Roommate
 - Decide what person you would like to have as a roommate - male or female, smoker or nonsmoker, someone younger, older, or same age.
 - Use your network to find suitable person.
 - Make sure your potential roommate is legit.
 - Get a sense of a potential roommate's finances.
 - Invite potential roommates for an interview.
- Expectations
 - Communicate openly and honestly.
 - Decide how you handle rent and utility payments.
 - Agree on how you will handle cleaning responsibilities.
 - Decide on how you will handle messages and mail.
 - Decide if household supplies will be shared.
- When Expectations Are Not Met
 - Stay calm.
 - Schedule a house meeting.
 - List what you want to talk about prior to the meeting.
 - Talk to one another and come to an agreement.
 - Look at what you can all do differently.
 - Communicate face-to-face or over the phone.
 - Confront issues that are bothering you.
- Once You Move In
 - Decide how will be responsible for calling the landlord in case of any problems.
 - Decide if you have to give notice if you will be having visitors.
 - Decide if the guests can stay overnight.
 - Decide on cleaning responsibilities.
 - Agree on smoking / drinking / drug use.
 - Decide which rooms are considered "common areas".
 - Set guidelines regarding private spaces.
 - Decide who will be given a key to your apartment.

- Decide if you're willing to share clothing, music, dishes and other items.
- Communicate with each other.