

While living with others can bring challenges, it tends to be easier when specific information is shared. This is true for the best of friends who live together, as well as for people who have just met. Honesty, active listening and compromise are important components to this conversation. These discussions are not legally binding, and most will not be discussed within your lease – they are meant to encourage conversation to support a healthy living environment for all.

Atmosphere + Temperature: Do you prefer it to be warm or cool inside? Do you like windows open? Do you prefer the air conditioner? Do you like the curtains/blinds opened or closed?

Cleaning: Who is responsible for cleaning what and how often does it need to be done. Be sure to talk about all shared spaces. Chores done on a rotation allow people to take turns cleaning the fridge or the toilet, but it might be easier to assign a room (bathroom) rather than a specific item (toilet, sink, etc.).

- Bedroom (if sharing) - removing trash, picking up messes, laundry
- Bathroom – toilet, floor, sink, shower/tub, trash
- Kitchen – dishes (how soon do they need to be washed), bringing garbage/recycling out, cleaning microwave, fridge and stove
- Other shared spaces (living room, balcony, etc.)

Communal Items: Talk about everything that is to be shared – What are your expectations of this shared item...Can it always be used or only during specific times, can it leave the apartment? If you're sharing a refrigerator, are you also sharing food or will people label their items? If you're sharing a TV, are there specific times you need to use it?

Communication: When there is a problem, how should you communicate with each other? Exchange phone numbers, email addresses and whatever other method you prefer to use for correspondence. Be sure when there is an, that you do communicate to the others you live with so it can hopefully be resolved before becoming a larger issue.

Guests: How often and when can people visit? Can guests spend the night? How many nights can be spent in a row? Do you need to notify each other in advance if someone is coming to visit or spending the night?

Money: Be sure to talk about when and how rent and utilities will be paid. It might be helpful to add due dates into your calendar.

Noise + Schedule: What hours do you typically sleep or study at home? Can you sleep or study with people in the apartment, with music or the TV on?

*This might be a good time for you all to go over your schedules with one another, and talk about a shower/bathroom (if shared) schedule.

Personal Time + Space: Do you enjoy spending time alone? Do you need time with others to recharge? Let others know how you prefer to spend your time when you are at home.