

Questions to Ask a Potential Roommate

See worksheet attachment: How to know if your potential roommate is right for you

Paying Bills and Rent

- How will bill/rent payments be divided?
- Will each person pay separately, or will one person collect the money to pay?
- Who will put the utilities, phone, cable etc., in their name(s)?
- Does anyone have a bad credit history? If yes, can you trust them to get their bills paid?
- If one of the roommates doesn't pay their portion of the rent, what happens?

Lifestyle

- Do you or your roommate smoke, or have a problem with the other person smoking?
- Do you need quiet time? Does the TV or radio bother you?
- What about guests? What are your rules for inviting people over?
- Will it bother you if your roommate's friends or family stay over? Does it depend on when and for how long?
- What about pets? Does this depend on the type?
- What areas of the house will we be sharing, and which areas would be off limits to either of us?

Housework

- How important is cleanliness to you? Do you and your roommate have similar standards?
- How will cleaning be divided? How often does cleaning need to happen?
- Would you like to set up a schedule?



Food and Household Supplies

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

What risks am I taking by living in a shared accommodation?

Accommodation that is shared with the landlord and/or their family, or where you share a living space with other tenants, may not be protected by the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA). Visit [Community Legal Education Ontario](#) to see if the RTA applies to your situation. If it doesn't, it is important that you clearly understand what is expected of you as a renter. If you are not protected by the RTA, you may have trouble dealing with or solving problems you believe come from unfair treatment. For example, those unprotected by the RTA can be asked to leave at any time because they are legally considered a guest in the space, and not a tenant.

For legal information around housing accommodations and tenant rights you can connect with the [Durham Community Legal Clinic](#) to speak to a paralegal.

