



# WHY INTERVIEW (PROSPECTIVE) ROOMMATES/HOUSEMATES?

Whether you've known prospective roommates for 12 minutes or 12 years, it's still important to consider whether you have a compatible living style. What at first seems like a small annoyance can lead to problems or disputes.

You'll want to cover a broad range of topics. Think through your average day, and compare it with that of your prospective roommate. Suggestions of things to think about include:

- **Likes and Dislikes** – *Smoking, drinking, etc? Drugs? Pets? Music? TV? Furniture setup?*
- **Budget** – *How much are you willing to spend? Are you committed for the term of the lease?*
- **Privacy Needs** – *How much personal space? What level of dress is necessary?*
- **Sleeping Habits** – *How much do you sleep? Tolerable/intolerable distractions?*
- **Overnight Guests** – *Do you (or will you) have a boyfriend/girlfriend?*
- **Eating Habits** – *Is the food in the kitchen shared or individual? Do you like to cook?*
- **Study Habits** – *Where, when and how often? Tolerable/intolerable distractions?*
- **Housekeeping Habits** – *Are you a neat freak or a slob? How clean should the bathroom be? The kitchen?*
- **Emotional Expression** – *What are you like when you're angry? When you're happy?*
- **Social Habits** – *Do you like to party? How frequently? When will you be entertaining friends?*
- **Spare Time** – *How do you spend it? Listen to music? Read novels?*

On the other side of this sheet is a list of questions you might want to consider asking prospective roommates, though it is not all inclusive. If you think something might be a good thing to know, it probably is!

Once you've established a good match, you might want to consider filling out a Roommate Agreement, so that your promises to each other are in writing. You can pick one up in our office, or on our Web site, [www.housing.umich.edu](http://www.housing.umich.edu).



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# ROOMMATE QUESTIONNAIRE

These are a few questions that you might want to ask a potential roommate.

- 1) Have you ever had a roommate before? What, if anything, bothered you about your past roommate(s)? What did you enjoy?
- 2) What temperature do you prefer? Would you rather it to be cool or warm? Is energy conservation important?
- 3) Do you want a quiet living environment?
- 4) What kind of music do you like? How loud and often do you like to play it?
- 5) Do you watch a lot of television?
- 6) Do you have or anticipate having a pet? If so, what kind?
- 7) What activities or events do you find frustrating or annoying?
- 8) Are you committed to the whole lease period?
- 9) Have you ever had any money problems? How do you deal with them?
- 10) What degree of privacy do you need/want?
- 11) When do you go to sleep? When do you wake up? Does it have to be quiet & dark when you're sleeping?
- 12) How often will you have visitors? Do you anticipate having overnight guest(s)? If so, how often?
- 13) What sort of study environment do you prefer?
- 14) How much do you study? What kind of grades do you hope to get?
- 15) What kinds of food do you like? What food allergies do you have?
- 16) How do you feel about sharing household chores, food, cooking duties etc?
- 17) Would you describe yourself as a clean person or a messy person?
- 18) Are you a quiet person or a more outgoing person? Do you like having people around?
- 19) Would you describe yourself as someone who is easy to talk to (especially when there's a disagreement)?
- 20) What do you do when you're really upset or hurt by someone or about something?
- 21) How can I tell if you want to be left alone? What is the best way for me to tell you that I am uncomfortable or angry?
- 22) What are some of your hobbies? Do you participate in any activities?
- 23) Do you smoke, drink or use drugs? How often?
- 24) Do you party often? Do you plan on hosting any parties? How frequently?
- 25) Do you have a car?
- 26) Is there anything else that I should know about you?