

# roommate tip sheet.

## what is a roommate?

A roommate is a person you share a room or house/apartment with.

There are numerous benefits to having a roommate, especially in a city like Toronto. Not only will you enjoy the rent savings but after a long day at work or school it is nice to come home to a friendly and familiar face.

## benefits

- Utilities: If utilities are not included in the rent, you and your roommate(s) can split the cost of heating, electricity, and water.
- Cable/Internet: You'll be able to afford higher internet speeds and bandwidth, while keeping the cost-per-person relatively the same.
- Travel companion: Depending on your work/class schedules, you and your roommate(s) might be able to travel to/from home together.

## expectations

### you and your roommates should:

- Be respectful of each other's space, privacy, and common property.
- Be responsible about paying bills, or any other joint commitments.
- Be conscientious about any agreements you've made, concerning guests, cleaning, etc.
- Work constructively to address and resolve issues so that they don't cause stress or impact your enjoyment of your living space.

### you shouldn't expect your roommate to:

- Cover your share of rent or other bills if you are unable to pay them.
- Lend you their personal property unconditionally, or at all.
- Take care of and entertain your guests, or accommodate them at all, unless agreed upon prior to their arrival.
- Clean up after you, especially in the kitchen and bathroom.

## finding a roommate

### 1. your own circle of friends

Your own network of friends is a great source of potential roommates. If your own close friends cannot live with you, they could very well have other friends who are also looking for a roommate.

When considering shared housing with 'friends-of-friends' or acquaintances, take some time to get to know them and establish expectations.

## 2. the off-campus housing service

Check out our Roommate Finder! Post & search roommate profiles & availability, save your favorites, & more. This free tool is exclusive to U of T students. Login and create a profile then browse and interact with other students looking for roommates.

Our online rental ads offer a large number of student-friendly ads for shared or private rental units. You can search for a place that meets your specific needs and budget.

## 3. housing fairs

Housing fairs, held twice a year, are an excellent opportunity to meet prospective roommates and find potential places to live at the same time.

