



Shared Housing Questionnaire



A helpful questionnaire of living preferences for friends or new acquaintances that may consider sharing a dwelling.

By Doreen Blumenfeld
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Created for HeartHill , an
association dedicated to
supporting individuals
through change and
transition.

Forward

Thoughtful reflection and discussion are vital components in the process of finding a good match for shared housing. Many topics listed in this questionnaire can function as the beginning point for discussions of compatibility. Realize that both you and your prospective housemate do not need to mark the same box for each topic. However, discussion of your different responses and expectations is vital for a enjoyable housing relationship.

Once you find a good housing match, be sure to build into your system the details to address and resolve any conflicts that are bound to arise. A monthly check-in with each other may be desirable. A message board in the kitchen might be helpful. The main issue is to have some way to maintain open communication and to resolve differences before misunderstandings are created. Go into a shared housing arrangement with your eyes wide open, so you can notice and enjoy all the hidden gifts of community!

An important note is to be aware of basic housing laws. You must be in compliance with both your state and federal laws. Federal Fair Housing laws for roommates and shared housing have two components: advertising and decision-making. One of the best resources for more information on the Federal Fair Housing laws is www.craigslist.org/about/FHA#roommates. One of the best sites we've found for individual state housing laws is www.freelists.com/free_lists/free/TenantLaws.htm.

HeartHill has graciously provided this questionnaire to Urban Rural Interface, Corp., a non-profit corporation. HeartHill hopes that all people have opportunities for safe and sustainable housing.

Doreen Blumenfeld

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Shared Housing Questionnaire

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Indicate why you wish to share a household:

share finances companionship other _____

Do you currently live:

by yourself with dependent children other _____

Are you looking for a housing situation that is:

less than one year for more than one year not sure

Have you ever shared a household with someone (besides a romantic partner or relative)?

yes no comments _____

If your answer is yes, how old were you, did you enjoy the experience, and were there issues you had to deal with that were most difficult?

Do you want to rent a room with kitchen/bath privileges or share the entire household as housemates?

II. HABITS AND HEALTH

Do you smoke?

yes no

Do you consume alcohol?

yes no

If you had to name three activities that you are most interested in, what would they be _____

III. RATE THE LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE TO YOU:

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Background noise sensitivity	_____	_____	_____
Washing dishes after each meal	_____	_____	_____
Entertaining guests	_____	_____	_____
Solitude	_____	_____	_____
Chatting with others at home	_____	_____	_____
Companionship with others in the home	_____	_____	_____
Using your own furniture	_____	_____	_____
Creative endeavors	_____	_____	_____
Study or hobbies	_____	_____	_____
Cooking odors	_____	_____	_____
Gardening	_____	_____	_____
Temperature level in house	_____	_____	_____
Pets	_____	_____	_____
Spirituality	_____	_____	_____
Political compatibility	_____	_____	_____
Spiritual compatibility	_____	_____	_____
Kosher food	_____	_____	_____
Vegetarian food	_____	_____	_____
Organic food	_____	_____	_____
Physical exercise/yoga/stretching	_____	_____	_____
Meditation or prayer time	_____	_____	_____
Private bath	_____	_____	_____
Guest room	_____	_____	_____
Neatness	_____	_____	_____
Recycling	_____	_____	_____
Sharing the following with housemate:			
cooking	_____	_____	_____
expenses	_____	_____	_____
transportation	_____	_____	_____
companionship	_____	_____	_____
chores	_____	_____	_____

emotional support

Additional comments:

IV. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Special conditions or needs

Special issues or concerns

You are most annoyed when other people

How do you hope to benefit from shared housing?

Rules that are important to you in sharing housing with another person

(To be completed by potential boarder)

List 3 individuals that can provide housing or character references for you and indicate your relationship with each:

Name	Phone number	relationship
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Additional topics for further discussion:

- Number of telephone lines into home, wifi
- Utilization/conservation of utilities (power, heat, water)
- Share of utilities expense
- Share of cupboards and refrigerator
- Share of household chores (garbage removal, general housework, recycling, laundry)
- Upkeep of yard
- Maintenance of pets
- Length of stay for overnight guests
- Cost of home repairs (electrical/plumbing)
- Desire to share holidays
- Level of recycling (papers, plastics, cans, compost)
- Level of sound from TV/radio/CD
- Level of independence for transportation
- Comfort level of expressing conflicts
- Cooking odors
- Other possible allergens (candles, cleaning products, dust)

APPENDIX FOR PARENTS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

How many children do you have that live with you full time _____

How many children do you have that live with you part-time _____

What are their ages and genders _____

The following items should be reviewed and thoroughly discussed by both parties if you are considering sharing a household with a child:

- Full vs partial use of home
- Child care
- Play areas inside and outside of home
- Noise tolerance and expectations
- Parenting style
- Additional children visiting during the day
- Additional children visiting overnight
- Pick-up of toys/clothing items in common area
- Mealtimes
- Other adults/relatives visiting children
- Homework time involves/doesn't involve quiet
- Study time and space
- Pets
- Child allowed home alone
- Supervision for TV/computer use
- Supervision for snack/meal preparation
- Possible conflicts with children's noncustodial parent that may affect household
- Supervision during holidays/summer school break
- Supervision during sick days
- Use of drugs/alcohol/smoking in household by children under 18
- Possible use of drugs/alcohol/smoking by household guests in regards to children