

# 5 Steps for Finding a Good Housemate



**Co-living is an increasingly popular lifestyle** that offers seniors a satisfying and financially viable way to remain independent longer—but also depends heavily on finding a suitable roommate.



## 1. Don't Limit Yourself

Consider looking outside your age range. Depending on the individual, a college student with a job and a studious nature may be a good fit. You might want to offer regular home-cooked meals in exchange for their efforts on cleaning, yard chores, or running errands.

Alternately, a business professional who is seldom home, but needs calm and quiet when they are home may be a perfect fit for your lifestyle. Or someone who travels often and needs pet care while they are away.



## 2. Seek Compatibility

Look for someone who is financially stable, shares some of your interests, has a similar lifestyle, and enjoys the same level of cleanliness (or chaos). This will help you avoid the most common roommate arguments.

If you have physical limitations, select a roommate with different restrictions so that you can help one another. Choose someone who compliments your strengths and weaknesses.

A poor choice may result in less interaction and more loneliness, so be sure to agree to a “trial” period, for everyone’s sake.



## 3. Discuss Personal Preferences

Privacy expectations and lifestyle preferences should be discussed and agreed upon. For example, if one person is a night owl and the other an early riser, the arrangement may work flawlessly (to allow each other some alone time). Or, you may clash with one another (if one person blasts the television or bangs pots and pans while the other is trying to sleep).



## 4. Protect Yourself

Meet potential roommates for the first time in a public place (get coffee and chat), to gauge your compatibility before inviting them to see your home.

If you do like them and want to show the home, be sure a friend or family member is at your place when you invite a potential roommate over for the first time.

Get references from previous roommates or consider a background check and a credit check before inviting someone you don't know to live in your home.

If renting, add the roommate's name to the lease or on a sublease. Put any agreements you make in writing.



## 5. Enjoy!

It can be delightful to live with a well-selected roommate. Don't forget to relish the company, appreciate your differences, and work together to experience a better life than either of you could have enjoyed on your own.

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