

Roommate Information Sheet



Why should I share an apartment or house?

- Two bedroom apartments or group homes are often much more affordable;
- Residents often have their own bedrooms and share all other facilities (including utility costs) with others;
- Remember to be objective in your search for a roommate - Best friends are not always the best roommates!

Initial Steps to Finding Accommodations: A Good Fit for You and Your Roommate

- After you assemble a potential group of roommates, discuss ideal living situations before you begin looking for a home or apartment to share.
- Discuss the basics first:
 - Size of accommodation
 - Location of accommodation
 - Total rent that can be handled both individually and by the group
 - Furnished vs. unfurnished accommodation
- We recommend that the following issues be discussed, in an honest and open conversation, to avoid any problems that may occur while in the living situation:
 - Will food be purchased and meals will be prepared collectively or individually?
 - How will the responsibility of purchasing and preparing food be assigned?
 - How will general housekeeping responsibilities be shared or assigned, (i.e., cleaning the kitchen, the bathroom, removing garbage)?
 - What are individual needs and demands for cleanliness?
 - How will the home be furnished? How will future home purchases be shared and used?
 - How will payment of rent and utilities be divided? Who will be responsible for mailing

- in various payments?
- How will responsibility be shared for property damage?
 - What are individual privacy needs and expectations of respect for the belongings of others within the group?
 - What are guest and entertaining policies that everyone is comfortable with, (particularly with large parties and overnight guests)?
 - What are smoking or non-smoking arrangements?
 - What are pet policies, (taking into account personal preferences and physical effects such as allergies and asthma conditions)?

Can't find a Roommate?

Try these websites to find one!

*Please note: Here are a few websites to help locate roommates. This information is created as a guide for students. The ISO and GW are not responsible for content not associated with the George Washington University. Always use caution when searching for housing or roommates online.

- <http://www.easyroommate.com>
- <http://www.roommateclick.com>
- <http://www.roommates.com>
- <http://washingtondc.craigslist.org>

Post a message on GW off-campus message boards at <http://gwoffcampus.com> , or visit the GW International Student Housing Facebook page

