

Sharing your home

Living in a share home may be a viable option for entering the private rental market. It can be a great way to reduce the cost of renting and make friends.

The benefits of share housing

- Reduced rent and living expenses
- Sharing household chores and workloads
- Sharing meals and cooking
- Companionship and connection
- Socially and mentally stimulating
- Feeling supported in case of an emergency

If you are comfortable living with other people a share house can be an economical housing option. However, living in a share house can present challenges. These may include unwanted noise, conflict with house mates, mess, chasing rent and difficulty sharing chores.

Here are some tips for keeping the peace in a shared home:

- View the property and meet the housemates before you move in, this will give you a feeling to what your home is going to be like
- Come to a prior agreement on rent, bond, bills and house rules before you move in. Develop a system for things to be split and paid on time to avoid trouble in the future
- If you have items that are precious to you and don't wish for them to be used by others, keep these in your own space

TIP

Once you have decided on sharing and are happy with the person or people you will be sharing with it may be a good time to consider drawing up an agreement that outlines household chores and tasks. You may also set rules for shared items, privacy, visitors and noise.



Managing and avoiding conflict

- Open communication is key. Make sure you are transparent with what you want to verbalise as well as use active listening skills to hear what your house mate is also trying to say.
- Always listen to the other person's point of view and then work together to resolve the issue.
- Don't start your conversations with aggressive or accusing statements, instead work from a non-judgemental and non-accusatory place of mutual respect.
- Take time to thank your housemate for their help and support, your gratitude will build positive connection and communication.

KEY TIPS TO TAKE AWAY

- **The best way to live well with people is to be honest, respectful and open with communication**
- **Try not to 'sweat the small stuff' with housemates**
- **Ensure you have activities to fulfil you outside of the home to ensure you are not at home all the time, as this can create challenges for you and housemates**

For further information and support

Tenancy

Consumer Affairs

1300 55 81 81

www.consumer.vic.gov.au

Victorian Office of the Public Advocate

1300 309 337

www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au

Mental health

Wellways

Helpline: 1300 111 500

wellways.org

Lifeline

13 11 14

www.lifeline.org.au

