10 Top Tips for a great flat share

For before you move in and when you’re living together!
Before you move in...

1. **Get ready for a mix of people.**
   
   One of the exciting things about moving into university accommodation is that you’ll be living with people you’ve never met and they’ll soon become your best mates. Think about different personality types so that you’re ready for whoever your flatmates may be, and consider how you’ll live in a flat together. The best places to meet new people are at Fresher events and by joining various clubs and societies.

2. **Check your contract.**
   
   It’s really important you pay attention to any special conditions or important dates in your contract e.g. scheduled flat inspections or expected cleaning standards. Make sure everyone understands what is expected to avoid conflict, and fines for poor standards.

3. **Check the inventory.**
   
   The university should provide you with a list of all furnished items in the flat which form part of your contract. It should also state whether anything is damaged before you move in. Make sure you are happy all items are present in the property and the description is accurate.

4. **Take photos.**
   
   Taking photos of your flat depicting its condition when you move in will help you to resolve any disputes and avoid any extra charges that you may have at a later stage. Remember you will need to verify the date the photos were taken.

5. **Get to know your Hall Warden.**
   
   If you’re living in halls, your hall warden is there to make your first year at uni more enjoyable and as hassle free as possible; the likelihood is they will have been in exactly the same situation as you only a few years earlier. If you have any questions about your flat or just uni life in general, they should be the first point of call.
Once living together...

6. How clean is your flat?
This sounds like an obvious tip but keeping on top of cleaning will ensure the halls manager and your flatmates are happy. Pull together a cleaning rota so that everyone shares responsibility for the communal areas of the flat – you should all take care of your own rooms. Put the rota on the fridge so everyone can see it!

7. Put the rubbish out.
Make sure you find out when the bins and recycling are collected, if you are unsure ask your hall warden. Find out where you need to put your rubbish and make sure you take them out the night before. Use this service regularly to prevent the rubbish building up – which could develop nasty smells, mould and unwanted pests!

8. Ventilation.
Keep the flat well ventilated, as this will prevent damp and mould developing. In the bathroom, use extractor fans if you have them, or open the window slightly after you have had a shower. Always make sure you close any open windows before you leave the property. When it’s cold or damp use the heating to reduce the risk of damp or mould developing.

9. Sort out repairs.
As soon as a problem starts to arise e.g. dripping taps, leaky pipes, heating and water problems – notify somebody immediately. Make sure the problem is recorded and action is taken as soon as possible. This will prevent further damage as well as any potential disputes regarding your contract.

10. Get prepared for moving out day.
If you read all these tips you should be well prepared for a smooth moving out day.

The Final Big Clean Up – refer back to your contract to check for any clauses about the required standard of cleaning they expect. Make sure you organise this in plenty of time and split the workload equally.

Also make sure you and your flatmates put aside enough time to give the flat a thorough clean, including behind furniture.

The property should be left free of rubbish, and only the items on the inventory should remain in the flat. Move all furniture to where it was when you first moved in.

Don’t leave the responsibility of cleaning to the last person to leave – all flatmates share responsibility for leaving the flat in the right condition at the end of the year.
Quick Flat Sharing Check list.

- Check your contract
- Meet your Hall Warden
- Take photos
- Keep it clean
- Don’t leave things to the last minute

Which flatmate are you?
Take the quiz online at endsleigh.co.uk/quiz

The Boss
The organised flatmate. You like rotas and labels. You’ll make sure the bills are paid on time and that chores get done. Your biggest frustration is that your helpful reminders are sometimes considered “nagging.”

The Party Animal
The sociable flatmate. Others rely on you to get the party started. You love getting involved and having a laugh. You never miss a social event, just make sure you don’t miss your lectures either!

The Dodger
You enjoy coming up with creative ways to avoid spending money and doing the chores. This can be an asset when you consider the cost of living away from home. Just remember, a little contribution around the house can go a long way.

The Geek
The studious flatmate. An expert in your field, you wouldn’t dream of missing a deadline. Sometimes teased for being “geeky” others admire your dedication. You came to uni to get a first class degree. Go for it!