# Every Question You MUST Ask Potential Roommates

#### **Lifestyle & Schedule**

1. Are you a morning person or night owl?
2. How often do you host guests or parties?
3. Do you play loud music, instruments, or games often?
4. What’s your typical work/class schedule?
5. Are you comfortable with overnight visitors? *(Example: Partners, friends)*

🚩 **Red Flag**: Opposite sleep habits, vague answers about guests.

#### **Money & Bills**

1. How should we split rent and utilities? (50/50, income-based, etc.)
2. What’s your budget for shared items (toilet paper, cleaning supplies)?
3. How do you handle late payments?
4. Are you employed or have a stable income?

🚩 **Red Flag**: Dodging money talks, unstable job history.

#### **Cleanliness & Chores**

1. How often do you clean? (Daily, weekly, etc.)
2. Should we use a chore chart or informal system?
3. Do you have pets? Who handles training/cleanup?
4. Are you okay sharing furniture or kitchen items?
5. What’s your biggest cleaning pet peeve?

🚩 **Red Flag**: “I’ll clean when I feel like it,” messy personal habits.

#### **Boundaries & Social Life**

1. Do you prefer hanging out or keeping to yourself?
2. Any dealbreakers? (Smoking, noise, politics, etc.)
3. How do you handle conflicts? (Direct talk, passive notes?)
4. Do you need alone time or shared meals?

🚩 **Red Flag**: Overly clingy, unwilling to compromise.

#### **Past Experiences**

1. What’s your worst roommate story? What did you learn?
2. Why did you leave your last place?

🚩 **Red Flag**: Blames all past roommates, vague answers.

### **How to Use This List**

* **Print it** and bring it to roommate interviews.
* **Save as**: Highlight answers and red flags.
* Pair with a [**free roommate agreement template**](https://junehomes.com/blog/2023/10/04/free-roommate-agreement-template/).

**Pro Tip**: Ask these questions over coffee or a house tour. Pay attention to body language—hesitation or defensiveness can signal issues!

*(Example: A Reddit user avoided a messy roommate by asking, “How do you feel about dishes in the sink?” The reply: “I leave them until the weekend.” Dealbreaker!)*

### **7 Red Flags You Should NEVER Ignore**

| **Category** | **Red Flag** | **Why It’s Bad** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Controlling** | Takes over chores/logistics without asking. | Power imbalances lead to resentment. |
| **Financial** | Unstable job or evasive about bills. | Risk of late rent or sudden move-outs. |
| **Boundaries** | Frequent unannounced guests or loud habits. | Kills your peace (and sleep). |
| **Cleanliness** | Leaves dishes for days or ignores pet messes. | Shared spaces become war zones. |
| **Communication** | Avoids tough talks or gives silent treatment. | Small issues snowball into blowouts. |
| **Transparency** | Lies about smoking, pets, or job status. | Trust is broken from day one. |
| **Drama** | Talks trash about ex-roommates or partners. | They’ll likely do the same to you. |

### **3 Pro Tips for Screening Roommates**

1. **Test Problem-Solving Skills**:  
   Ask hypotheticals like, *“What if one of us loses their job?”* Gauge their attitude—do they panic or brainstorm solutions?
2. **Tour Their Current Home**:  
   Notice if their space is tidy or chaotic. A Reddit user shared: *“My roommate’s bathroom had moldy towels. I should’ve walked away!”*
3. **Trust Your Gut**:  
   If something feels “off” (e.g., they dismiss your noise concerns), keep looking.

### **Final Checklist Before Signing**

✅ Discussed schedules, chores, and finances.  
✅ Reviewed past living situations and references.  
✅ Set rules for guests, pets, and shared items.  
✅ Signed a [roommate agreement](https://junehomes.com/blog/2023/10/04/free-roommate-agreement-template/).