

Roommate red lights

How to screen prospective housemates



It's easy to be drawn in by the perks of sharing space: half the rent, half the chores, an in-home plant and pet sitter, and a buddy to let you in when you've locked yourself out.

But before you become too romanced by the idea, carefully consider the ramifications of roommates.

Decide in advance what qualities you can live with and must live without. Then conduct your roommate

search as if you were interviewing for someone who'd be working closely with you, and who would have just about as much autonomy and responsibility as you do. Don't be petty — but do be particular. It's much better to buck up and pay all the bills until you find a compatible candidate. Even if your potential roommate is already a friend, use the following questions for guidance. Add your own make-or-break scenarios. Then quiz your candidates and see how they rate.

By Candace Leigh

take the quiz on page 3



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