

# Shared Housing Agreement

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**Household Name:** [Your Household/Co-op Name]

**Address:** [Full Address]

**Agreement Period:** [Start Date] to [End Date or "Ongoing"]

## 1. Purpose and Vision

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This agreement establishes the framework for our shared living arrangement, built on mutual respect, clear communication, and collective stewardship.

### Our Shared Values

- [Example: Ecological sustainability]
- [Example: Collaborative decision-making]
- [Example: Creating space for both community and solitude]
- [Example: Financial transparency and fairness]
- [Add your community's values]

## 2. Household Members

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| Name | Move-in Date | Room/Space | Contact |
|------|--------------|------------|---------|
|      |              |            |         |
|      |              |            |         |
|      |              |            |         |

## 3. Financial Arrangements

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### Monthly Contributions

**Rent/Mortgage:**

- Total: \$\_\_\_\_\_

- Split: [Equally / By room size / By income / Other: \_\_\_\_\_]
- Individual amounts: [List per person]

#### Utilities:

- Estimated monthly: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Included: [Electric, gas, water, internet, etc.]
- Split: [Equally / By usage / Other: \_\_\_\_\_]

#### Shared Food Budget: [If applicable]

- Monthly amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Covers: [Staples, communal meals, etc.]
- Managed by: [Rotating / Designated person]

#### House Fund:

- Monthly contribution: \$\_\_\_\_\_ per person
- Purpose: Repairs, improvements, shared supplies, social fund
- Managed by: [Treasurer / Collective]

## Payment Details

- **Due date:** [Day of month]
- **Payment method:** [Bank transfer, check, app, etc.]
- **Late payment:** [Grace period, late fee, or communication process]
- **Financial transparency:** [Monthly reports / Shared spreadsheet]

## Security Deposits

- Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_ per person
- Held by: [Landlord / Collective account]
- Returned when: [Move-out conditions]

## 4. Spaces and Privacy

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### Private Spaces

- **Bedrooms:** Private to individual members
  - Entry only with explicit permission
  - Members responsible for cleanliness of own rooms
  - Guests in private rooms: [Policy on overnight guests]

### Shared Spaces

- Kitchen
- Living room
- Bathrooms: [Number and assignment if applicable]
- [Other spaces: yard, workshop, storage, etc.]

### Quiet Hours

- Weeknights: [10pm - 8am]
- Weekends: [11pm - 9am]
- [Adjust based on household needs]

### Guest Policy

- **Overnight guests:** [Prior notice required, maximum nights per month]
- **Long-term guests:** [Definition, house meeting required]
- **Guests' responsibilities:** Respect house agreements
- **Guest fees:** [If applicable: \$\_\_\_\_ per night after \_\_\_\_ nights]

## 5. Household Labor

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### Cleaning and Maintenance

We share responsibility for maintaining our home. [Choose approach:]

#### Option A: Rotating Chore Wheel

- Weekly rotation of tasks
- Chores include: [List specific tasks]
- Schedule posted in: [Location]

#### Option B: Zone System

- Each person responsible for specific areas
- Zones assigned: [List assignments]
- Deep clean schedule: [Monthly/quarterly]

#### Option C: Work Hours

- Each member contributes [X] hours weekly
- Self-assign tasks from shared list
- Log hours in: [System]

### Shared Tasks

- Taking out trash/recycling/compost
- Kitchen cleanup after communal meals
- Bathroom cleaning
- Common area tidying
- Outdoor maintenance
- [Add others]

### House Meetings

- **Frequency:** [Weekly / Bi-weekly / Monthly]
- **Day/Time:** [Specific or rotating]

- **Format:** [Check-ins, business items, conflict resolution]
- **Facilitation:** [Rotating / Designated]
- **Decision-making:** [See Section 7]

## 6. Food and Kitchen

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### Food Sharing Model

[Choose one or create hybrid:]

#### Fully Shared:

- All food purchased collectively
- Shared meal planning and cooking
- Dietary needs respected

#### Partially Shared:

- Shared staples: [List items]
- Personal food labeled and separate
- ☒ communal meals per week

#### Individual:

- Members purchase own food
- Shared space in fridge/pantry
- Occasional potlucks

### Kitchen Guidelines

- Clean as you go
- Dishes done within [time period]
- Food waste → compost
- Expired food: [Policy]
- Shared equipment returned to designated spots

## Meal Sharing [If applicable]

- Communal meals: [Days/frequency]
- Cooking rotation: [Schedule]
- Dietary accommodations: [List restrictions/preferences]
- Meal fund: [If separate from food budget]

## 7. Decision-Making and Governance

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### Decision Types

#### Everyday Decisions:

- Made individually or by those directly involved
- Examples: Personal schedules, use of shared spaces, meal choices

#### Household Decisions:

- Require house meeting discussion
- Examples: Guest policies, chore systems, minor rule changes
- Method: [Consensus / Majority vote / Other]

#### Major Decisions:

- Significant impact on household or finances
- Examples: New member, major purchases, lease renewal
- Method: [Full consensus / Supermajority / Other]
- Notice period: [Minimum time for consideration]

### Consensus Process [If used]

1. Proposal presented with rationale
2. Clarifying questions
3. Discussion of concerns
4. Amendments if needed
5. Test for consensus: "Can everyone live with this?"

6. If blocks exist: [Process for addressing]

## 8. Conflict Resolution

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We commit to addressing conflicts directly, respectfully, and promptly.

### Steps

1. **Self-reflection:** Consider your own role and needs
2. **Direct conversation:** Talk with person(s) involved
  - Use "I" statements
  - Focus on specific behaviors, not character
  - Propose solutions
3. **Mediation:** If direct conversation doesn't resolve
  - Request another housemate to facilitate
  - Or use formal mediation process
4. **House meeting:** Bring persistent issues to full group
5. **External support:** [If available: professional mediator, housing co-op federation]

### Agreements

- Address issues within [timeframe: 1 week]
- No passive-aggressive communication
- Assume good intent
- Respect when someone asks for processing time
- [Other communication agreements]

## 9. Sustainability and Values

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### Ecological Practices

- Recycling and composting: [System]
- Energy conservation: [Specific practices]
- Water conservation: [Specific practices]
- Sustainable purchasing: [Guidelines]

### Social Practices

- [Example: Weekly family dinner]
- [Example: Monthly house bonding activity]
- [Example: Quiet solo time respected]
- [Example: Inclusive language and behavior]

## 10. Moving In and Out

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### Move-In Process

- Walk-through and condition documentation
- Key/access provided
- Orientation to house systems
- Introduction to neighborhood resources
- [Optional: Probationary period of \_\_\_\_ months]

### Move-Out Process

- Notice period: [30/60/90 days]
- Finding replacement: [Member responsibility / Collective]
- Exit interview/feedback
- Room condition: Returned to move-in state



- Forwarding address provided
- Deposit return: Within [timeframe]

## Member Changes

- New members: [Selection process, trial period]
- Required approval: [Unanimous / Majority]
- Integration plan for new members

# 11. House Rules

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## Specific to Our Household

- [Example: No smoking indoors]
- [Example: Shoes off at entrance]
- [Example: Overnight guests max 2 nights/week]
- [Example: Quiet hours strictly observed]
- [Example: Personal items labeled if in shared spaces]
- [Add your specific rules]

## Pets

- Current pets: [List]
- New pets: [Require house approval]
- Care responsibilities: [Owner/shared]
- Damage/cleanup: [Owner responsible]

## Substances

- Alcohol: [Policy]
- Cannabis: [Policy if legal in area]
- Other substances: [Policy]

- Substance-free spaces: [If applicable]

## 12. Emergency Procedures

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### Emergency Contacts

- **Fire/Police/Medical:** 911
- **Landlord/Property Manager:** [Contact info]
- **Utilities:** [Contact info]
- **House Emergency Fund:** [Amount and access]

### Emergency Meeting

- Any member can call emergency house meeting
- All make best effort to attend
- For urgent issues requiring immediate response

## 13. Amendments and Review

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- This agreement reviewed: [Annually / As needed]
- Amendments require: [Process from Section 7]
- Changes distributed to all members
- Members sign updated versions

## 14. Signatures

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By signing, we commit to this agreement and to creating a home together built on respect, communication, and shared values.

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| Name | Signature | Date |
|------|-----------|------|
|      |           |      |
|      |           |      |
|      |           |      |
|      |           |      |

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**Agreement Created:** [Date]

**Last Reviewed:** [Date]

**Next Review:** [Date]

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