Desk Research Josh Anderegg

Nightmare Housemates Cost Flatsharing Brits Friendships and £552 Annually

In the linked article the author analysed a study from Barclays Money Mentors about issues in flat sharing situations. The author finds that 54% of participants felt overall worse off due to their unreliable flatmates. 37% percent claim that they need to regularly remind their flatmates of due payments, 46% claimed that confronting flatmates about money stained their friendship, 45% percent claimed to wait up to a month until they confront their flatmates. The top annoyances are: flatmates not cleaning after themselves (35%), stealing food without replacing it (29%) and inviting friends without permission (28%). Overall the article highlighted that communication is a key need of people living in a shared flat. That includes a safe communication channel and an open ear from flatmates.

Tody - Cleaning App

Tody claims to be a smart cleaning assistant that enables multiple users to synchronise cleaning tasks around the house. It works by designating different cleaning tasks around the house and defining a time span by which the task has to be repeated. Tasks have progress bars so you can monitor if your roommate has done a task and if it reaches a certain threshold the people that should clean get a reminder. There are multiple standard cleaning tasks (such as sweeping the floor) that can be selected, but also custom tasks that can be created. Further, the app gamifies cleaning by gaining points when doing cleanup tasks during a monthly challenge. Overall it seems to be a great app apart from the fact that it doesn't have a system in place for usual "cleaning up after yourself" tasks, which can't be placed on a regular schedule but should become a habit for roommates.