

Questions to Ask a Potential Roommate:

☐ Do you have references?

- ☐ You would never take a job applicant's word for how great they are, nor should you with a potential roommate.
- ☐ Ask for a testament from a former roommate or personal references like friends and work colleagues (two or three should be plenty).
- ☐ Ask for their reference phone numbers and emails-people tend to be more candid on the phone, but emailing is a good backup if your calls go unanswered.

☐ What are challenges you've faced in past living situations?

- ☐ Bug or rodent infestations, bad landlords, repairs, and so on: how they handled these challenges will provide you insight on whether you're dealing with someone who can get things done.

☐ Are you still friends with your old roommates?

- ☐ If your potential roommate can tell disaster story after disaster story, pay heed to the red flag.
- ☐ If the person is somewhat hesitant to discuss their past roommate situation you may consider this yet another red flag.

☐ How long do you plan to stay?

- ☐ If you're looking for a long-term, secure situation, you will want to weed out those who know they're only looking to rent for a short period of time.

☐ How long is your average school/work day?

- ☐ You may want to know if your potential roommate has a similar schedule or a schedule that leaves the two of you in the space at opposite times. Both situations present pros and cons. For example: Similar schedules allows for carpooling to campus, while opposite schedules ensure that the bathroom will be open for use when needed.

☐ What time do you go to bed?

- ☐ Try to find out as much as you can about this person's late-night habits and how they can affect yours.

☐ Do you have any pets?

- ☐ Each landlord has a different policy on pets. Make sure you know if your potential roommate plans to bring a pet with them.

☐ Do you expect a lot of visitors?

- ☐ If guests plan to stay in your shared apartment, you will want to establish rules as to how long they can stay (maybe no more than a weekend or a couple of days).
If they seem to have a packed schedule of out-of-town guests already, you may want to steer clear.

☐ What do you do on the weekends?

- ☐ A good one to determine if you're into similar things.
- ☐ It's not an automatic no if you're into different stuff, but this question will get your potential roommate talking--and may alert you to any personal deal-breakers.

☐ How often do you clean?

- ☐ Cleanliness--or lack thereof--is one of the biggest sources of conflict for roommates.
- ☐ Ask them which chores they like and which ones they don't like. And tell them your habits, too.

☐ Do you smoke?

- ☐ Living with a smoker is a deal-breaker for some, and an essential question to ask if your lease forbids smoking indoors.
- ☐ If they say they are occasional smokers, ask how occasionally.

☐ How often do you drink at home?

- ☐ Make sure your roommate is on the same page.
- ☐ If you typically avoid alcohol but your roommate wouldn't mind a Tuesday hangover, you may not mesh.

☐ What's your romantic situation?

- ☐ If you've only met one half of the couple, you're basically signing on for a third roommate you've never met (which we know is a bad idea). But if they say they're in a serious relationship, you may expect lots of sleepovers.

☐ Can you put down a deposit?

- ☐ Like any landlord in this town, you need to protect yourself in case your roommate skips out on the rent.

☐ Anything else I should know?

- ☐ Maybe they forgot to mention new activities they've picked up or whether they have any allergies.
- ☐ Let the interviewee take the lead, and let their personality come through.