

Housemate Matching – Environmental Factors

The term housemate describes someone who shares a home with you (or the person you support) but has their own bedroom. Having a housemate or housemates can be beneficial and welcome for many people who are interested in moving to a home of their own.

Environmental factors refer to the physical home, the space in the home and surrounding area, as well as the community. There are several *Environmental Factors* that can impact matching, compatibility, and sustainability of a housemate arrangement. It can be helpful to do some thinking about yourself, and what your expectations are related to sharing a home with others.

Carefully consider needs and wants and what the acceptable range is for housing expenses. It's important to have a budget before viewing homes, knowing the difference between what is truly needed and what would be nice to have can be very helpful. It's also helpful to think about your needs and expectations with regards to amenities and security in and around the home. Ask yourself how you envision common areas being shared and maintained. Are you planning to try test things out with a short-term arrangement, or are you hoping to create an arrangement that will work for the long-term? It's important that needs and expectations mesh, in order for a housemate arrangement to be successful.

Below are some links and resources that were shared in the module that can help you think about these and other questions that might be helpful to consider. Also included are some links to tools and information from the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights, that might be useful:

Module Related Tools and Resources

1. Step 1: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing/welcome-to-the-dso-housing-toolkit/welcome-to-the-dso-housing-toolkit-step-1>
2. My housing and support plan: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing-toolkit/my-housing-and-support-plan>
3. My relationship circle: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing-toolkit/my-relationship-circle>
4. Housemate partnership agreement: <https://www.dsontario.ca/assets/images/banners/Housemates-Partnership-Agreement-Fillable.PDF>
5. Housemate compatibility profiles
 - In My Own Words: <https://www.dsontario.ca/assets/images/banners/Housemate-Compatibility-Profile-In-My-Own-Words.DOC>
 - My Interests, Skills and Habits Checklist: https://www.dsontario.ca/assets/images/banners/Housemate-Compatibility-Profile_My-Interests-Skills-Habits-Checklist.docx

Online Tools and Resources

- Roomies.ca - free peer to peer platform which allows you to create and view ads and communicate with others looking for a housemate: <https://www.roomies.ca/>
- Roomiematch.com – has free and paid options and provides support with finding a housemate using a Q&A survey which go through a human review: <https://www.roomiematch.com/>

Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR):

- Know Your Rights: Printable Resources for Ontario Renters:
<https://housingrightscanada.com/resources/know-your-rights-printable-resources-for-ontario-renters/>
- Ontario Housing Law Basics – Starting a Tenancy:
<https://housingrightscanada.com/resources/ontario-housing-law-101-starting-a-tenancy/>
- Ontario Housing Law Basics – Maintaining a Tenancy:
<https://housingrightscanada.com/resources/ontario-housing-law-101-maintaining-a-tenancy/>

DSO Tools Resources

1. Find your area DSO: <https://www.dsontario.ca/find-your-dso>
2. What is DSO housing navigation: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing>
3. Find your local DSO Housing Navigator:
<https://www.dsontario.ca/housing/welcome-to-the-dso-housing-toolkit/dso-housing-navigators-contact-list>
4. Events Calendar: <https://www.dsontario.ca/calendar/>

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