

Housemate Problems

A Union self-help guide

**Your Union of Students'
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Talk to
US



Having issues with your housemates?

Whilst sharing a house can be fun, exciting and cost effective, it can also be very stressful and lead to arguments. There are many reasons why you might find yourself bickering with your housemates, from wasting hot water to an unequal sharing of household tasks, which is why it's important to be aware of a few ways in which you can resolve the housemate drama.

Talk it out

The first step that you should always take is to talk to your housemates about what's bothering you. It's important you approach the conversation in a calm and rational way. Simply explain the issue and see if you can resolve it. It is also important that you are ready to compromise too. For example, if you're admittedly messier than your housemate, maybe offer to undertake more of the chores.

Mediation

If you don't feel comfortable taking that first step, your Union Advisors can help mediate the situation to ensure you come to an acceptable agreement which suits all. Just book an appointment with us for support and guidance!

Call your landlord

For more serious issues between housemates, you could speak to your landlord to see what he suggests. This is particularly useful if there is something in your contract regarding behaviour of tenants. Remember, if you don't keep your house clean and in good shape, you might not get your deposit back.

Grievance

It's important to recognise when you're being bullied or harassed. If you feel you're being targeted in the house for any reason, including your race, sexuality or religion, you can report this in writing to the Dean of College or Director of Department who may consider the University Disciplinary Procedure. Remember, your Union Advisors can help you with each step of the process.

Police

This option is available for extreme situations, such as threatening or violent behaviour, sexual harassment or hate crimes. Use your judgement and call 999 if necessary.

