

Moving In: The First-Month Checklist

Three passes for a new shared home. Tick it off together, while everyone's still on best behavior: whatever happens in month one quietly becomes how the house works.



BEFORE MOVE-IN Before a single box comes in

Only evidence and decisions made before day one count.

- ☐ **Photograph everything:** every wall, every scratch, the inside of the oven. Timestamped, in a shared album.
- ☐ **Read the meters:** water _____ electricity _____ gas _____
- ☐ **Rent split:** ☐ even ☐ by room size ☐ by income Small-room discount, if any: _____
- ☐ **Deposit:** who paid how much is written down. Rent moves on the _____ of every month.
- ☐ **Paying the landlord:** ☐ one collector, everyone pays them by the 1st ☐ everyone pays separately
- ☐ **One-page roommate agreement,** written while nobody has a grievance yet.

WEEK ONE Infrastructure, in this order

Defaults harden fast; week one sets them on purpose.

- ☐ **Bills in names.** Whoever holds a bill fronts money every month, so write it down:

BILL	IN WHOSE NAME	BILL	IN WHOSE NAME
Electricity		Internet	
Water		Building fees / local taxes	
Gas			

- ☐ **One place for shared expenses, one shared shopping list, one chore rotation.** Before habits form, not after the first toilet-paper argument.
- ☐ **The communal starter kit,** bought once and split: cleaning supplies, trash bags, dish soap, a plunger, basic spices.

BY THE END OF MONTH ONE Fix it while it's cheap

- ☐ **First settle-up** on _____ (one monthly day; the 1st works)
- ☐ **Fifteen-minute review** over dinner: did the rent split feel fair? Did the chore cycle work? Is anyone quietly fronting money?
- ☐ **Agreement tweaks** written down: a premium shifted, a chore swapped.

ALWAYS FORGOTTEN Decide these in week one anyway

- ☐ **Renter's or contents insurance**
- ☐ **Spare key** held by _____ **Maintenance contact** _____
- ☐ **Exit rules:** notice period _____; who finds the replacement _____; the leaver pays until a new roommate moves in ☐ yes ☐ no

Our own items

Month one is when fixing things costs nothing.