

The ZEN ShareMate Prenup

First a confession: We made up the word **ShareMate**. Roommates refer more to a college dorm experience sharing one room. **ShareMate** re-defines to represent a shared apartment living experience that goes far beyond a single room. **ShareMate** have their own-keyed lock-out bedroom/bathroom and then share a private living, dining, office, laundry, balcony/patio, entry closet, storage and kitchen space.

The co-living trend offers adults an opportunity to elevate their current quality of life by sharing their space and housing budget with another non-romantic adult. According to Pew Research 2018 data on housing 1 in 3 people are sharing space including over 40M in the US. Co-living is an emerging trend in housing that enriches the living experience through **ShareMate** experience; this represents a shift in apartment residents to embrace quality relationships and expanded their quantity of living space and amenities. Co-living platforms are showing up in every major market and ApartmentShareSpace.com is the first to serve San Antonio.

ApartmentShareSpace is here to help facilitate resources to find a roommate and clearly communicate expectations to create a ZEN **ShareMate** or **ShareSpace** experience. Under the category "I wish I knew" or "We should have talked about this first," we've created these fun conversational "Talking Points" cards to bring down the AWKWARD feelings a few notches.

Print and cut the cards and take turns opening a candid discussion with your **ShareMate**. These important **Zen ShareMate Prenup talking cards** help each of you to clearly state your expectations before signing a one-year lease contract with a property management firm.

Each Talking Point Card is designed to facilitate honest conversation and allows you to determine your **common-ground rules**. Transparency is the perfect foundation to steer your voyage together as you launch into shared apartment space!

Characteristics of Great ShareMates:

- Financially Reliable.
- Communicate Effectively & Often -Positive and Negative.
- Handles conflict right away and never criticizes.
- Skilled in the art of compromise -The middle ground is good for all!
- Mutual Respect – For each other, privacy and personal space.
- Contributes equally with housekeeping.
- Always Considerate.
- Do nice things for each other!
- Once established, Stands firm on deal-breakers.
- Owns a pair of top-quality headphones and earplugs.
- Send a postcard home to your ShareMate when on vacation.

Here are some helpful topics to get the conversation started:

ApartmentShareSpace has simplified this process for you with our all-inclusive plan. One payment covers Rent, Utilities, Washer & Dryer, Cable, Internet, Trash Pick-up, Fitness Studio with Cross fit, Game Room, Pet Spa, Parking Garage, Cyber Café, Pool Cabanas. Now that was easy!

What is important to you? Any deal-breakers?

It is important to consider how to handle guests. Whether dinner party or overnight - What are the expectations? How much notice is expected? Obtain permission first? How much is too much? Guests of opposite sex?

What is your housekeeping style? - Are you Messy Marvin (SLOB) or a Housework Enthusiast (OCD)? No matter where you fall on the spectrum, it is important to discuss early on. What is your idea of clean? Determine responsibilities - How will chores be divided up? How Often?

Do you have the same work/school schedule or are they conflicting? If differing schedules, what will be done to ensure peaceful enjoyment for everyone? Always obey quiet hours per your lease contract. Noise Level? Any other requests?

Do you spring out of bed to welcome the morning sun, whistling and feeling delightful? Or, Do you hit the snooze button one more time (well... maybe a few) and pull the covers up over your head and need caffeine running through your veins before hearing or uttering the first word? It is important to determine which category each of you falls into and be mindful that peak energy levels might be experienced at different times.

Social Life - Are you a Social Lion (we like that better than party animal) or an Anchoress (also better than hermit or homebody)? Whether you are a good-timing fun seeker or a lounging couch potato, identify that up front and if you are on different ends of the spectrum, be respectful of each other's differences.

Pets - Allowed? Allergies? Allowed in common areas or personal space only? Any kind (cat, dog, fish, llama)? - we are kidding about the llama as that is probably a restricted breed per your lease... oh the rules! Speaking of rules, be sure to discuss who is responsible for the care of your domestic companions (think feeding, walking, litter box).

Temperature - Whether you identify more with polar bears and snow-capped mountains or the blazing hot sun in the desert, it is important to find a temperature where all are comfortable. What is the midrange temperature for you and your **ShareMate**? And, one last thing... don't tiptoe to the thermostat and change it up or down - We see you Sneaky Pete!

Food/Beverage - Will you collaborate or manage groceries individually?

Borrowing Items - Allowed? Do you have to ask before borrowing? Any items off limits?

Smoking allowed or not allowed? In the apartment? Outside?

Emergency Preparedness - Know current medications? Allergies? Emergency Contact phone numbers? Emergency exit strategy.

Final Tip:

Once you have found your **ShareMate** for your new **ShareSpace** - Have a weekly **ShareMate Huddle** and talk about the following:

- Any bills that need to be paid this week?
- Any shared expense items that need to be purchased this week? Whose turn is it?
- Any pending housekeeping items or chores?
- Are there any expected guests this week?
- Discuss any issues causing friction and find a resolution.
- What can I do to help you out this week?
- Misc. Items