

How to Find a Housemate

- Ask friends and family if they know anyone looking for a housemate.
- Use social media to ask co-workers, acquaintances, friends of friends, alumni connections, family members.
- Explore the home share national site: <https://www.silvernest.com/> to identify rooms for rent where the homeowner lives in the house and rents a room.
- Search Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace (see How to Avoid Rental Scams).
- Search <https://hotpads.com/> for apartments, and to understand market prices.
- Identify universities and colleges near your desired neighborhoods – find their Off-Campus Housing for Students resource. Be discerning about whether you want to live with college-age young adults or not.
- Reach out to faith communities you are familiar with to ask if any members have a room or apartment for rent.
- Search roommate websites <https://www.roommates.com/> or <https://www.roomies.com/> or <https://kangaroom.com/> or <https://www.roomster.com/#> with your zip code. Use Housemate Pairing tools to identify a good roommate for you.

How to Avoid Rental Scams



Always verify the owner	Use websites to look up public records for the property; go to view the property to see if it is what it says it is; call the phone number listed at the physical address to verify the owner.
Beware of fake listings	Be aware if an apartment seems too good to be true; often fake listings are designed to pull you in.
Never submit a rent application before you view the property	Scammers are trying to get Social Security and bank account #'s. Make sure you view the apartment or home and verify the owner <i>before</i> filling a rental application.
Don't give personal information over email	Scammers try to get your money by asking for personal information (by email). Always verify it is a real landlord and apartment before responding.
Beware of the "middleman" scam	A scammer could pretend to be managing a property for the owner and claim the owner is out of the country and attempt to collect rent, a security deposit, or other fees. Never wire money.