



## Housemate or hate?

Around 75% of sharers want a housemate who is clean and tidy, according to realestate.com.au's latest Consumer Intentions Study.

Contributing fairly to shared expenses, doing their fair share of chores and being compatible personality-wise were also high on the list of important housemate qualities. Having similar interests isn't a top priority with just 36% citing it as important, nor is being social outside the household which mattered to just 23% of the 1107 Australians who responded to the September survey.

### Who's sharing?

In terms of age groups, 34% would prefer living with housemates aged between 25 and 44-years-old, while one in two wouldn't consider sharing at all.

With increased housing costs holding people back from buying their own home, living with housemates has shifted away from being predominantly a short stint a lot of people do, mostly while they're young. Students and travellers are now in the minority, according to a recent analysis from flatmates.com.au. of shared living in 2017.

As housing becomes less affordable, people are being forced to do things later in life. People are moving out of the family home later, staying in shared homes longer and, if they're exceptionally lucky, purchasing their own place at a much older age than their parents. With aspirations of home ownership so out of reach, it's not surprising that those in their 20s are house sharing for longer.

This means that the type of people seeking shared accommodation is more varied and diverse than ever.

### Pet Peeves

Despite the mix of people house sharing being much more eclectic these days, there are still plenty of unwashed dishes piled up in sinks all across Australia thanks to lazy housemates.

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So let's get to the nitty-gritty – what are our top pet peeves about house sharing? What do we hate about our housemates?

Given that being clean and tidy is what most want in a housemate, falling short on this is a major no-no. Indeed, 65% of renters/sharers cited a lack of cleanliness and tidiness as their top bugbear.

Next on the list of annoyances is not paying bills and rent on time. Not pulling your weight when it comes to housework won't go down well either, over half of renters and sharers surveyed found this irritating.

Smoking certainly isn't going to leave you spoilt for choice when it comes to cherry picking housemates, 43% of people in the survey cited smoking as an issue.

Happily, having a furry friend in tow won't get in the way of shared living nirvana, only 14% of those surveyed stated pet issues as a problem.

You should never pick a flatmate based on any hopes of romantic engagement or based on physical attractions. Take the time to look into who you'd be comfortable sharing with – background checks are also a smart idea as you want to know ultimately, who you'll be sharing your home with.

Otherwise, you may risk ending up with the housemate from hell

## Reuse & Recycle!

If you think Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year, then you may be feeling a little blue that you have to wait a whole year for the festive season to roll around again.

Before you go throwing away all the evidence of the festivities, don't discard all of your beautiful used Christmas paper and cards – it's such a waste! Repurpose it with these clever ways to reuse leftover Christmas wrapping and cards.

### 1. Line drawers

A great way to make use of leftover Christmas wrapping paper is by using it to line drawers around the home – especially drawers where you store clothes and pieces made from linen. Firstly, paper-lined drawers protect your clothes from humidity, which can cause wood, wood oils, old varnish and paint to bleed into fabrics that are stored in those drawers over a long period of time. Paper-lined drawers also help to protect your clothes from insects and from dust that tends to accumulate on the surface of drawers.

### 2. Make pretty envelopes

Making envelopes is a fun and creative way to use up your leftover Christmas wrapping – and there are lots of tutorial videos online that show you how to do it.

### 3. Make bunting

Give your leftover Christmas cards and paper another life by reusing them to make decorative bunting. The type of celebration you plan to use the bunting for (i.e. indoor vs. outdoor parties), will determine whether you need to use paper or card – card is best for al fresco events as it's stronger and won't blow in the wind as much.

### 4. Stuffing for storing precious items

Shred your leftover paper and store it in your home office for a year-round supply of package stuffing – perfect for storing fragile Christmas decorations or to protect items that you want to send in the post.

## Raspberry Peach Lemonade



### INGREDIENTS

#### RASPBERRY PEACH PUREE:

4 fresh peaches, pitted, then diced into large chunks  
 1 cup fresh raspberries

1 1/4 cups water

#### SIMPLE SYRUP:

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1/2 cup water

#### LEMONADE:

7 cups cold water

1 1/4 cups fresh lemon juice (from approximately 4 lemons)  
 ice cubes

additional raspberries, for garnish - optional

additional peach slices, for garnish - optional

mint sprigs, for garnish - optional

### INSTRUCTIONS

Add diced peaches, raspberries and water to a food processor or blender and process until pureed.

Place a sieve over a large mixing bowl and pour peach raspberry puree into the sieve. Use the back of a large spoon to push the puree around so the liquid falls through the sieve and seeds/skin stay inside the sieve.

Discard seeds/skin from the sieve and set mixing bowl with liquid in it aside.

Add granulated sugar and 1/2 cup water to a small saucepan and heat over MED heat until sugar dissolves into the water, stirring occasionally. Boil about 3 minutes until liquid has become syrupy. Set aside to cool slightly.

Add 7 cups water, lemon juice and ice cubes to a large pitcher. Stir to combine. Pour in cooled simple syrup and peach raspberry liquid. Stir to combine again.

Store covered in refrigerator until ready to serve. Serve chilled with garnishes, if desired. Enjoy!

## Office News – Homes for Sale



**8 Centaurus Street, Inala**



**29 Teasel Cres, Forest Lake**