

Living With Neighbours

Noise

- Realize that you have close neighbours, they may have different work hours than you, maybe they don't have the same taste in music; be considerate of your neighbours. This goes for outside as well as inside. If you are going to sit on your patio late at night remember to keep your voice down. Landlords hate to get complaints that someone is being too loud.
- On the same note, living in apartments means that you have to let some things go, If your neighbour is just walking or doing laundry (at a reasonable hour) that's just part of living in an apartment; complaining to the landlord about these types of noises isn't going to get you very far. The landlord can't realistically do anything about this. Think about it, if the landlord told you that you were walking too loud or not to do laundry because the neighbours didn't like it, you'd think that unreasonable.
- Also remember that you are responsible for how your guests act. If you have a friend who is known for talking loudly, it's probably a wise idea to meet somewhere else if you are going to hang out that night. If your guests destroy the apartment, it's you who will be charged.

Cleanliness is next to...

- This goes for outside as well as inside. If the garbage bag breaks on the way to the dumpster, clean it up. Don't leave your garbage for someone else to pick up.
- If pets are allowed, clean up after them too. Remember that the common areas are common. Everyone uses them. On a related subject, keep your dogs leashed in common areas. Not everyone loves dogs as much as you do.
- Don't leave things by the door for you to take care of later. Your neighbours don't want to deal with that. It looks bad and also makes it hard for them to get by.
- Keep the inside relatively clean. Everyone has their own standards regarding what is clean. But everyone also knows what is too dirty. If you never take out the trash, your neighbours can tell by the smell and possibly bugs.

If you can fix it yourself, fix it.

- Don't call the landlord to change your light bulb if you are capable of doing it yourself. Check your lease, often times the charges for this are more than if you do it yourself anyway. Calls for plunging clogged toilets and changing light bulbs take time away from repairing leaks and furnaces.

However, if you can't fix it yourself, don't. If you aren't qualified to fix a water heater or a furnace, and you try, you could end up blowing the building up. If you aren't a plumber, don't mess with the pipes, you could flood the building.

Park in your own space

- If your apartment has assigned parking, stick to it. Property managers can be overwhelmed by complaints about parking. Eventually, they will get tired of asking you to move your car and have it towed. It also gives a bad impression. People will view you as someone who is not considerate of other people.

Pay on time

- Pay on time every month. Property managers understand that sometimes things happen. If you are in a situation one month that you need an extra couple days, if you have paid on time every other month, they are more likely to work with you.
- Related to this, if you are going to be late on the rent, be honest about it. Tell the land lord that you need a few more days and then pay when you said you would. If you make them chase you down, they aren't going to be as willing to work with you.

Give notice

- If you are planning to move, make sure to give the notice that is required in your rental agreement. Chances are you will need references. Don't ruin all that time being a good tenant by not giving notice.

Try to resolve disputes yourself

- If you children aren't getting along with the neighbour's children, try to work it out without involving the land lord. If there is a problem related to safety or lease violations, report it. Just keep in mind, that as adults, you should resolve your own disputes. It is unfair to expect the land lord to take sides.
- There is not really much that can be done from the land lord's position about children that don't get along or someone's car door left a ding in someone else's door. These are the kinds of things you should resolve on your own.
- Some of this may seem a little silly but these are things that I have heard from property managers that take up their time and happen frequently. Just remember, the more time the land lord spends resolving disputes and dealing with things that adults should be able to handle themselves, the less time there is to deal with repairs and things that need to be done.