You’ve collected together some potential housemates and are starting to think about where you’re going to live next year - great! But before you jump into anything, there are loads of things worth thinking about; everything from location and room size to pricing and a decent landlord will affect whether, for the next year, you love - or hate - your home.

So, we’ve put together this useful checklist to help you decide if the house you’re checking out is for you. Fill it in for the different places you visit, ticking for ‘yes’ and crossing for ‘no’, then sit down and figure out between yourselves which house ticked all the right boxes. Literally.

The Location:
How long will it take you to get to Uni?
....................................................................................
Close enough to shops and services  □

The House, check for:
Parking or cycle storage, if you need it □
Sights or smells of mould or damp □
Room sizes everyone is happy with □
Showers and hot water that work well □
Whether furniture is included □
Double-glazing throughout □
Adequate communal living space □
Damage to the building/disrepair □

Security, are there:
Working smoke detectors □
A working burglar alarm □
Lockable windows □
Sturdy external doors □

Money, figure out whether:
Bills are included in the rent □
The house seems worth the rent □
Refurbishments or rent price are negotiable □
It is a joint or individual contract □

Ask the landlord:
If they have a gas safety certificate □
Whether they are part of an accreditation scheme □
If you can see a copy of the HMO license (if the property houses five people or more) □
How they will protect your deposit □

Ask the current tenants:
If the landlord completes repairs quickly enough □
Whether the heating works properly □
If they’ve enjoyed living there □
Why they are leaving □
Whether there are any outstanding problems with the house □

Rate the property...

OUT OF TEN

Learn more about Love Your Home

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