

The as-of-yet unwritten commandments of living in a house-share:



1. Thou shalt not leave washing up for more than a day

Is there anything worse than coming to the kitchen to whip up a stir-fry only to find the wok's got crusty old dregs stuck to it and *you'll* have to wash it up before being able to make yourself a quick, healthy dinner?

2. Thou shalt not have loud extra-curricular activities when thine housemates are in

No one wants to hear anyone else being intimate so be considerate. Or just wait till your flatmates are out and then unleash your wild side. If you suddenly hear people turn up their music reeaaally loud, take the hint.



3. Thou shalt not conveniently always forget to empty the bin

There are only so many times you can crush the contents down further - that bin is full so...bloody take it out! This is not one person's responsibility it is EVERYONES!

4. Thou shalt not take really long showers at slightly different times every morning making it impossible for thine housemates to time their morning routines

"Why were you late to work this morning?" your boss asks. "Well, Sophie had just got into the shower when I needed to brush my teeth and she was washing her hair *and* shaving her legs so I had to wait fifteen minutes, boss," you reply. Your boss is not impressed.



5. Thou shalt not invite over large groups of random people without first giving thine housemates a heads-up



When you arrive home after a long day, the last thing you want is to encounter loads of people you don't know and hadn't expected in your home. At least if you'd been warned you could have come up with a

credible excuse as to why you're going to be anti-social and hide in your room.

6. Thou shalt not eat food that doesn't belong to thou (unless offered)

Oh, you were just going to borrow "a splash" of my milk, were you, James? Well now I can't have my cereal and what am I supposed to have for breakfast, hmm? Ask, if you can't leave it alone.



7. Thou shalt not leave hairs or any sort of bodily excrement around the wash-basin, shower or toilet



Cleaning up someone's food mess is one thing, cleaning up their personal mess is another. And it's gross. If you've blocked the shower drain with your hair or thrown up down the sides of the loo, do the decent thing and clean it up.

8. Thou shalt not take over the whole kitchen for hours and hours during prime dinner-time

Multiple people trying to cook multiple different meals in one kitchen is carnage. And let's be honest - most kitchens are not HUGE. But everyone wants to eat so don't spread your chopping boards and appliances out over all the kitchen surfaces and hog all the space in the oven. Compromise and understanding usually leads to harmonious houses.

9. Thou shalt not practically move in thine significant other if they do not contribute to any bills

We all have overnight guests from time to time, and of course, we welcome their showering and gladly share our loo roll with them because we are not absolute d***s. But when a flatmate's boy- or girlfriend seems to be living at yours more than not, that's just not fair to be honest. Plus it forces others to report you for breaching the tenancy, they will be gutted to make you homeless – don't force us to be evil.



10. Thou shalt not send passive aggressive messages on the group chat

“Was just thinking it would be really great if we could all wash up our breakfast stuff in the morning as otherwise it’s a bit of a pain when we all get home and want to start cooking dinner lol.” No one is lolling. And everyone knows at which one member of the house that message was directed. If you want to say something to someone then pluck up some courage and do it with integrity.