



Succeeding as a renter



Tips and tricks



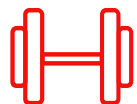
Student cards

Using your student card is a great way to save money. Places such as the movies, sports, events, retail shops, and public transport often have a student/concession fee which is considerably lower than a standard adult fee. While this can seem insignificant it all adds up over time.



Buying second hand

Students can save large amounts of money buying used products. One of the largest expenses you will have are textbooks. Check out textbook exchanges on Facebook or online with websites such as Gumtree. Facebook Marketplace often has people getting rid of items for free which you can pick up.



Get active

Petrol and parking can be expensive, especially if you are travelling multiple times in a day. Consider walking to destinations where possible. If you can't walk the whole way, then find free parking and walk the remainder to your destination. Doing this will save you money and keep you fit at the same time.



Pack your lunch

Make your lunch each day instead of buying out. Bringing leftovers from the night before is a quick and easy option to saving money. If you drink tea or coffee, then try bringing it from home instead of buying it from a café.



Make a plan

One way to keep track of your spending is to set a budget each week or month. List all of your known expenses – this might be things such as rent, utilities, petrol/public transport, groceries, loans. Then list down any income you receive – whether from employment or government support. Compare these two lists and determine how much expendable income you have over that period. Take into consideration that you should also keep some money aside for savings in case of emergency and planning for the future. If you go over your budget for one period this is ok, just adjust your budget for the following period to get yourself back on track.



Grocery shopping

Always plan what you need to get from the supermarket. Set out a meal plan for the week and stick to buying those ingredients. It is best to go shopping after you have eaten so you don't buy food items out of impulse. Alternatively the major supermarkets offer 'Click n' Collect' options free of charge. This is a great way to avoid being enticed by items you do not need.

When grocery shopping stock up on non-perishable items that you will use frequently. You can also look out for items on sale and incorporate these specials into your weekly meals.



Tips and tricks



Rental payments

Organise when and how the rent is paid. Speak to your landlord/ agent and you may be able to make payments into a third-party account which they set up. This means that everyone is equally responsible for rent payments and decreases the likelihood of people forgetting to pay.



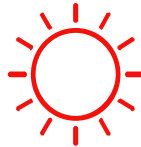
Noise

Noise can travel throughout the house quite easily, so try and be respectful to others in the house. Consider when others are studying or if they are doing shift work. If you need to make noise, then do it at appropriate times to cause minimal disruptions.



Utilities

All utilities should be split equally between all housemates. This is generally the fairest and easiest way to do it. You may also like to include a utility fee as part of the weekly rental amount. This can be adjusted based on previous utility bills and the time of year. Avoid overuse of appliances, particularly heating and cooling as these are large contributors to household bills.



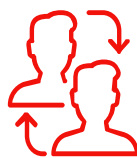
Visitors/parties

Ensure that your friends, boyfriend or girlfriend are not overstaying their welcome. If you are planning on having a party or get together, ask your flatmates first. Boyfriends and girlfriends may cause tension in the house, particularly if they are staying frequently and not contributing to rent/utilities.



Cleaning

This is one of the largest issues you will come across in a shared house. People have different expectations around what is clean and what is not. Often, they have had other people clean up after them meaning that they don't know they need to clean. You should always clean up after yourself, particularly in communal areas. Some houses set up a cleaning roster for spaces that need frequent cleaning. This is a good way to allocate tasks to individuals and reduce the likelihood of conflict. It also gives them known responsibility and something you can refer to if they fail to clean as agreed in the roster. You might also like to hire a regular cleaner if the house agrees to pool funds.



Build relationships

The best share houses do fun things as a group. Here are some ideas to build relationships and create friendships:

- Have a communal meal once a week. You can rotate who cooks. If you don't want to cook, then shout the house some takeaway.
- Enjoy a movie/games night together. This is a great way to learn about each other and talk about things in your life.

At the end of the day share housing is always going to be a compromise. You are not always going to get things your way and you will come across people that don't share your ideals around living. Communicate and do your best to create a happy environment to live in.



Five easy meal ideas

The following meal ideas are perfect for repurposing leftover food from a previous meal. This will help save you money and reduce wasting food.

SOUP

Soup is a great way to use up leftover vegetables. Vegetables are full of vitamins and minerals essential to healthy living. You can chop up the vegetables and add some beans or left-over chicken for protein to make a complete meal. Otherwise you might like to add some vegetable stock and puree the vegetables to get a nice creamy soup.

[Leftover vegetable soup recipe](#)

FRENCH TOAST

If you have some bread that is about to go stale you might like to consider making some French toast. French toast is made by soaking bread in whisked eggs and cooking in a fry pan. This is a great breakfast food and can be combined with staple ingredients such as cinnamon and sugar. If you have some fruit you can also put this on top and drizzle with maple syrup for an extra delicious dish.

[French toast recipe](#)

PASTA BAKE

In supermarkets you will find that they sell ready-made jars of pasta bake sauce. To create a pasta bake cook some pasta of your choice, put in any leftover cooked meats/vegetables, cover with the jar of pasta bake sauce, top with cheese, and cook for around 20 minutes or until the cheese is golden brown.

[Pasta bake recipe](#)

STIRFRY

To make a stir fry, sauté any leftover vegetables with onion, garlic, and ginger. Add some soy sauce and serve over brown rice or quinoa for some extra substance.

[Stir fry recipe](#)

SMOOTHIES

Leftover fruit, greens, nuts, seeds, and yoghurts can be transformed into a delicious and nutritious meal option when done correctly. Put it all into a blender and add a liquid (you might like to use milk, coconut water, or almond milk depending on dietary requirements). If you are using vegetables in a smoothie be sure to balance them out with something a bit sweeter such as honey, berries, or mangoes.

[Smoothie recipes](#)