



You might actually like your neighbor.

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Like a good neighbor

PARTY ANIMAL

What if you're the noise problem?

When hosting a large gathering such as a Super Bowl party, it's always considerate to let your close neighbors know in advance. You never know if they have plans for a quiet evening of their own — which could inevitably be impacted by your guests, music, etc. If you give your neighbors a heads up, they can spend the evening elsewhere, or if invited, they can come to your gathering, as well.

Hate the people living upstairs? Or do they hate you for that night when you and your best friend just had to learn Beyonce's "Single Ladies" moves ... at 2 a.m.? Well in 2010 we say clear the air in the hallway! Rent.com's President Peggy Abkemeier shows us how to be better neighbors and tenants.

Say you are just renting — is it still important to be friends with your neighbors?

No matter how great your apartment or home is, neighbors can often make or break your rental bliss. Therefore, it's important to take the time to try and meet your neighbors, or at least be welcoming to them when you pass each other in the hall. If you foster a good relationship with them, they are more likely to offer you assistance when it's needed, such as signing for packages, helping when you accidentally lock yourself out, or keeping an eye on your place, or your pets while you're out of town. If you become good friends, you may also have a new babysitter for special occasions or emergency situations.

Moreover, since fewer renters are moving to new apartment buildings and are instead choosing to re-sign leases, it's more important than ever to befriend your neighbors.

What's the No. 1 complaint neighbors have about other neighbors?

Noise violations. Whether it's a barking dog, loud music, or stomping around from the neighbors above, all renters can agree that a noisy neighbor can be a nightmare. If you do have a noisy neighbor, we'd recommend gently confronting them to see if they can make an effort to fix the problem. Quite often, neighbors are unaware of how loud they might be to others, and simply bringing it to their attention could solve your problem.

Don't forget about the staff

"If you have out-of-town guests who might be arriving for a party or for the weekend, leave a spare key with your doorman enclosed with a handwritten note from you, explaining who they are and for how long they will be staying," says Abkemeier. "This way, there will be no confusion when they arrive, and your doorman will not have to fumble around looking for a spare key that he or she might or might not have." She adds, "If you're having a lot of food delivered to the apartment and would like assistance from the doorman in carrying it up to your apartment, consider tipping them or sharing some of the food with them as a thank you."