

# **How To Be A Good Neighbor.**

## **1. Take pride in your neighborhood.**

Getting along with neighbors can sometimes be difficult, but it all starts with being a good neighbor yourself. One way to be a good neighbor is to simply take pride in your neighborhood. Embrace it for what it is, find what you can do to make it better and tell others about how much you love your community.



## **2. Help maintain shared spaces.**

Good neighbors don't just take care of their home and yard. They also look out for the shared spaces, like the trash compartment, walking paths, and neighborhood parks.

## **3. Be a responsible pet owner.**

Pets can be a big bone of contention between neighbors, so you need to keep them in order. Start with pet etiquette 101: Clean up after your pooch and have designated areas for your pet to handle its business and not all over your neighbors' plants and near their homes where it will begin to smell. You own a pet; not your neighbors.



## **4. Introduce yourself and invite your neighbors over.**

You don't have to become best friends with everyone in your neighborhood. Introducing yourself and learning names is just a good neighbor thing. One way to build rapport is by inviting your neighbors over, this should be simply a social event. Once you've established a relationship, you could form a book club, share sports interest or enjoy a drink together.

## 5. Be a respectful party host.

Keeping music at a reasonable noise level when you're throwing a party is common sense. An aspect people frequently overlook, though, is minding where their guests park. Be considerate and inform your neighbors if you plan to have an enthusiastic group over. Also, let your guests know of parking rules prior to your event.



## 6. Don't be the town gossip.

Part of being a good neighbor is avoiding gossip. There's a difference between "good" gossip and "bad" gossip. If a neighbor's mother passes away, communicating that news to other neighbors so that people can share condolences is good gossip. Bad gossip, meanwhile, spreads negative rumors and slanders the character of their neighbors.

## 7. Abide by community rules.

When you live in a homeowners or condo association, you have to comply with the community's rules. Still, a lot of people don't take the time to review their association's rules. These rules may dictate parking restrictions, trash and recycling schedules, landscaping requirements, and more. Know the rules and try your hardest to comply.



## 8. Handle conflict judiciously.

Generally, if you have an issue with a neighbor, your first line of defense should be to try to resolve the problem with the person directly. This should be done face-to-face not over text message or email, where messages can get misconstrued. A soft answer turns away wrath, so always opt to handle conflict in a civil and mature manner. Don't hesitate to ask for good advice in this area if you are overwhelmed by confrontation.