

## Full House: Multigenerational Living Tips

According to the National Association of REALTORS®, an all-time high of 17 percent of homes purchased last year were multigenerational, with cost savings and elder care being some of the driving reasons for cohabitation.

**Balancing togetherness and privacy are key** to minimizing tension. Having a kitchen with **countertops at different levels** makes it easier for everyone to team up for meal prep. Additionally, **eating meals together** is also a good way to nurture togetherness.

For privacy, having a “knock before entering” rule helps to respect boundaries. If you have enough space, you can also create separate rooms by installing **pocket doors**.

For storage, maximize your space by installing **floor to ceiling storage units** to keep things organized and out of the way.

Having **accessible features** such as walk-in bathtubs and showers, handheld showerheads, and grab bars near the bathtub and toilet



will make life a lot easier and safer for elderly family members.

**Good lighting** is also important, especially for those with reduced eyesight. Layer with lamps and install nightlights in the bathroom and hallways in your unit.

Living with different generations can be made easier when the layout of a condo is thoughtfully done to encourage harmony, reducing any tension that may arise.



## Preventing Plumbing Problems

Catching plumbing issues early is key to preventing a domino effect of damage. So, what are some ways to prevent a water damage nightmare?

- Prevent clogging culprits such as food particles, grease, and hair from going down the drains. For toilets, ensure that you flush only toilet paper.
- If you have a slow and sluggish drain, use a drain snake or make a natural cleaning solution of 1 cup each of baking soda and vinegar poured down the drain, wait 5 minutes, and flush with 2 cups of boiling water, repeating as needed to clear the blockage.
- Periodically check for leaks from the base of toilets, appliances, and dripping faucets or showerheads.
- Know where your water shut-off valves are in case you need to turn off the water supply in an emergency to prevent flooding.
- If you live in an area with colder temperatures and plan to be away, set the thermostat to around 16°C/55°F.

If you have a plumbing issue you aren't sure how to fix, hiring a licensed plumber is always a wise choice.

## Cultivating Kindness: Embracing Your Neighbours

Navigating relationships with neighbours isn't always easy, but approaching each situation with empathy and understanding can go a long way. Read on for suggestions on how to handle interactions in some common situations.

**The Complainer** — They complain about almost everything and have a short fuse when it comes to certain sounds, such as a dog that barks or children who are loud. If they complain, listen and try to remain calm and neutral. If the complaint is reasonable, try to find a middle ground.

**The Thorn in Your Side Neighbour** — They continually get under your skin, maybe by blasting music, smoking on their balcony below you, or stomping around on the floor above you at all hours. Try and approach them with a friendly tone, express your concern, and work toward a solution.

**The Boundary-lessness Neighbour** — They can be overly friendly, perhaps dropping by unannounced too often. If you need space, start with subtle hints like, “I really value my alone time, it helps me to relax, and clear my head.” If that doesn't work, be politely direct about your boundaries.

**The Gossiper** — They like to know and share everything about everyone. If you aren't comfortable having the whole condo



building know your business, it's best to be selective with what you share with them.

The bottom line is that no matter what type of neighbour you are dealing with, a little tactful communication can make a big difference.