We hope that being part of the vibrant resident hall community this year has added value to your UC Berkeley experience. You have gained awareness and found your voice for engaging in the wide ranging, and sometimes difficult conversations and relationships required in a diverse and world class community.

As you move to a residential neighborhood around the campus area, use the knowledge and skills you’ve learned this year. Demonstrate – in your next community - what it means to be a Cal Bear and a good neighbor. It’s important... and pretty easy. Here’s a checklist to help you on the path to your next good home.

**February - April**
- **Choose Your Roommate(s)**
  Do you want to live alone, with strangers or friends? What kind of people do you want to surround yourself with? What kind of roommate are you? Be realistic - no roommate situation will be perfect and conflicts will arise. Check out these resources for [looking for](#) and [choosing](#) the right roommate.

- **Choose Your Neighborhood**
  What type of place do you want (e.g. studio, apartment, co-op, shared room)? What’s your budget? Do you need parking for your bike, scooter, or car? Where is the closest laundry mat, market, or café? [Resources](#)
  What are you inheriting? Ask about the property’s history and the last tenants. Were they loud; have lots of parties? In addition to the leaky faucet, you may be inheriting the drama the previous residents left behind, along with their unwanted furniture. And your neighbors won’t cut you slack because you are new. Get informed advice from [Happy Neighbors](#) and [Cal Rentals](#).

**May**
- **Move Out**
  Quiet hours are 24-hours a day for two weeks starting May 2. Please be courteous to your neighbors by observing this period. There will be a fee of $100 if you are not checked out by May 17 at 10am. Make sure you take everything; you won’t be able to get back in. Find helpful [links](#) and the [Move-Out Checklist](#) at Cal Housing.

**Summer**
- **Get Involved**
  Most areas have a neighborhood association where residents collaborate on issues like safety, community projects & improvement, and maintaining lines of communication between the neighbors, the university, and the city. Join your neighborhood group and be an active part of the community. If you need help finding or reaching out to your neighborhood
association, you can contact calhappyneighbors@gmail.com and the project coordinator will get you the information.

- **Learn Community Expectations**
  In addition to following the Student Code of Conduct, you must also know and obey the rules of the city. Berkeley has many laws that support a peaceful neighborhood. A few ordinances that pertain to you can be found here. Educate yourself on your rights and responsibilities.

**August**

- **Move In**
  Get your bills in order and make sure you pay rent on time. Most banks have online bill pay, and apps like Google Wallet, Pay Pal, and Venmo makes paying people that much easier.
  Stay on top of your academic due dates and Get your Bearings with this calendar of events on campus.
  Remember, putting unwanted furniture on the sidewalk or in the public right of way is illegal dumping, and overflowing bins can also result in citations and fines, resulting in imprisonment and fines of $1000 a day. Cal Move Out has tips and resources to help you move in & out like a good neighbor. Start by planning ahead!

- **Get to Know Your Neighbors**
  They could be a Nobel laureate or a prominent professional in your field. You probably have more in common than you think. Smile and say hello! Exchange contact information in case you need to reach them about a party, maybe even invite them to it. Respect their peace and privacy, as they will respect yours.

- **Make the Commitment to be a Good Neighbor**
  You're unpacked. You've cooked your first meal in your new kitchen. You found where the nearest café is. The semester is getting into high gear. Being a good neighbor is not difficult, but takes steady effort. Be conscientious of late night noise, make sure the trash gets inside the bin, and entertain responsibly. You'll be well on your way to being a good neighbor and avoid steep fines as well. Be accountable to your home, yourself, your community.

  Are you a good neighbor? Use this self assessment quiz to find out!

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Brought to you by Cal Housing in partnership with Happy Neighbors. We aim to increase neighbor awareness and accountability for cultivating good relationships and positive behavior among all who live, work, study and play around the campus area. Small things make big differences.

For more information go to or contact calhappyneighbors@gmail.com