

# SIX EASY STEPS TO BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

## WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Living off-campus means joining the Ames community. Your neighbors are not just friends down the hall. They are also long-term residents, families, professionals, and non-student Ames residents. These individuals may keep very different hours and lifestyles than students. It is important that you recognize and respect some basic responsibilities as a member of the Ames community. As an Iowa State student, the Principles of Community guide conduct, performance, and decisions on and off campus. We ask that you enact these principles in your neighborhood interactions.

### MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

You've found the perfect place to live, roommate(s), and life is good! Consider this a wonderful opportunity to make new friends.

- Introduce yourself! Even if you have lived there for awhile, it's better late than never!

### STEP ONE

- Exchange contact information.
- Consider bringing cookies as a welcome gesture.
- Attend [neighborhood association](#) meetings and events.

### STAY IN TOUCH

Go past first introductions. Establish ongoing communication with your neighbors.

- Learn more about your neighbors lifestyles. Do they work early morning shifts? Do they have small kids who take afternoon naps? Being mindful of their schedules and helping neighbors understand yours can help mitigate problems before they start.

### STEP TWO

- Discuss concerns with your neighbors as soon as they arise and before they escalate into larger issues.
- Keep an eye out for each other. Encourage your neighbors to report any suspicious activity and volunteer to do the same.

### CONSIDER THOSE AROUND YOU

Consider how your personal decisions and behaviors, and those of your guests, may impact your neighbors.

- Observe the city noise regulations. The maximum noise level is 60 decibels (equivalent to a normal office or restaurant conversation) for the hours of 7 am to midnight. The maximum noise level is 55 decibels (equivalent to normal household conversation) for the hours of midnight to 7 am.
- Inform your neighbors and obtain a noise permit from the city if you will be creating noise beyond these decibel levels. Student Conduct has provided a [sample letter](#) you can use to inform your neighbors!
- Keep in mind that noise travels farther than you think, especially at night. Your noise could impact those next to you, behind you, and across the street from you.

### STEP THREE

- Be aware of how your outdoor activities may impact others. Is there increased noise? Excessive trash? Rambunctious behavior?
- Do not use your neighbors property or belongings as your own without permission.
- [Control your pets](#). Pick up after them, keep their noise under control, and keep them contained to your yard.
- Do not urinate outside. Not only could you be cited for public urination or indecent exposure, but it is disrespectful to your neighbors who may witness your decision.
- Show courtesy when you or your guests park in the neighborhood.

WOULD YOU WANT TO BE YOUR NEIGHBOR?

## MAINTAIN YOUR HOME & COMMUNITY

Living in the community, you will be located among other renters and homeowners. Many of these individuals take pride in their property and their neighborhood. Do your part to maintain your home, even if you are just renting.

- Keep your yard tidy and don't let garbage pile up. Mow your lawn regularly. Keep your sidewalks tidy and clear.

## HOSTING A SOCIAL GATHERING

We know hosting a social gathering is an exciting part of moving off campus. While we want you to enjoy your off-campus experience, we want you to do so in a way that obeys the law and is courteous to your neighbors.

- Notify neighbors in advance when hosting a gathering.
- Clean up after your guests immediately following the event.
- If your gathering extends into the night, move guests and festivities inside, turn down the music, and remind guests to come and go respectfully.
- Be aware of your guests behavior and correct it as needed. Does their behavior reflect poorly on you? Are they being disrespectful to your neighbors or their property?
- Tell uninvited guests to leave - it is your right to do so. Knowing who is at your home will help keep the gathering under control.
- Only serve alcohol to those who are at least 21.

## KNOW THE CODE & STATE LAW

Knowing and abiding by local, state, and federal law and university policy is important to avoiding costly citations, criminal records, and university disciplinary violations.

- To view the [Student Disciplinary Regulations](#) for possible code of conduct violations, visit the Office of Student Conduct website

When you live, work, and play with respect for the community, your neighborhood remains a great place to live for everyone. Being a good neighbor—communicating, cooperating, and caring—benefits you, your community, and Iowa State.



## STEP FOUR

- Check your lease to identify who is responsible for what! Some of these tasks may be your responsibility; some may be your landlords.
- Use recycling and trash bins appropriately and keep a lid on them.
- Clear snow from the sidewalk and work with your landlord to provide de-icing salt, if needed.

## STEP FIVE

- Ask those who have consumed too much to stop or leave (do not allow those who have consumed too much to drive - call other transportation options to take them home).
- Keep official events on campus or at a commercial rental facility. Your residence is not a satellite house for your fraternity, sorority, or student organization.
- Use designated pick-up and drop-off points for rental buses or shuttles. Do not ask buses to stand idle in front of your residence.
- Call Ames police non-emergency (515-239-5133) if your gathering gets out of hand.
- Call 911 for health and safety emergencies.

## STEP SIX

- To view city codes and ordinances for possible code violations, visit the [City of Ames website](#)
- To view tenant responsibilities (Iowa Code), visit [Rent Smart Ames](#)

**Respect**

Freedom from Discrimination

**Purpose**

Cooperation

Richness of Diversity **Honest and Respectful Expression of Ideas**