

Good Neighbors Make Good Neighborhoods

What Does It Mean to be a Good Neighbor?

Being a good neighbor means living with others in a social community called a “neighborhood.” People talking in their front yards, children playing on the sidewalk, people mowing their lawns, and similar activities are all part of being neighbors. People are what make a neighborhood a living community rather than just a group of buildings.

Why Be a Good Neighbor?

Being on bad terms with your neighbor can make your life frustrating, day after day. But taking the time to establish good terms with your neighbors has numerous benefits. The community will be friendlier, the neighborhood safer, and the area a nicer and more comfortable place to live. Neighborhoods with an active social life can make your home more desirable on the housing market.



Introduce Yourself. Whether you're new in the neighborhood or you have a new neighbor next door, introduce yourself. Say hello, offer a welcoming gift (the classic homemade pie or cookies never fails) and “talk story” about the community.



Control your dog. Keep your dog on a leash if it has a habit of running rampant on your neighbors' lawns, especially if they have a cat or a dog of their own. Make sure to clean up after your pets too. If you have a particularly noisy dog, this may also become a source of contention with your neighbor. Put yourself in their shoes and imagine how upset you'd be if you or perhaps your newborn was woken from a much-needed nap by the sudden yapping of a nearby dog. If you have problems controlling your dog's barking or whining, consider seeking advice from your local vet or a local animal organization about training.



Alert your neighbor to parties. If you're planning a party, be sure to give your neighbors plenty of warning, letting them know when it's going to start and how long you expect it to go on. Leave them a telephone number to contact you at if they need to ask you to turn it down. If you get along well with your neighbors, why not invite them too? When it comes to the party itself, stick to your agreed arrangements and ask your guests to be considerate when leaving.

Consider your neighbors' lifestyle. Get to know your neighbors: What they do for a living, what their schedules might be like, and so on. Sometimes, you can remedy problems before they even start; for example, if they work nights, quiet mornings will be important to them. On the other hand if they have young children, quiet evenings will be very important. Similarly, give them information that'll help them be more considerate of your lifestyle. If you like loud music, or if your son plays the drums, let your neighbors know in advance. Also mention that if it's getting too loud, they should contact you first before calling the Police.

Here are some of the benefits of being a Good Neighbor:

1. The comfort of knowing what is happening in your neighborhood, being in on the flow of information.
2. The security of knowing you can rely on people for help; people who keep an eye on things and who will watch your property when you are gone.
3. The personal pleasure that comes from being around people you like and are friends with.
4. The identity of being part of a neighborhood group rather than just another resident.

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