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5 Things That Can Happen When You Move in Together

By Jillian Kramer (/contributors/jillian-kramer) • 2 DAYS AGO

When it comes to shacking up with a significant other, I've got some serious questions. But rather than ponder the answers myself, I decided to turn to an expert who can lay out on the line *exactly* what happens when you live together (<http://www.glamour.com/sex-love-life/blogs/smitten/2015/03/one-sure-sign-youre-ready-to-m>). Here, April Masini (<http://www.askapril.com>), relationship expert and author of *Think & Date Like a Man*, gets real about what we can expect once we merge our addresses.





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1. Your sex life (<http://www.glamour.com/sex-love-life/blogs/smitten/2015/03/is-sex-with-someone-you-love-r>) could change. "When you've seen your partner naked and had all types of sex together over the long run, there can be a sense of routine for many people," Masini says. "What is important to remember that routine doesn't mean there's something wrong with your relationship or either one of you—it just means that you have to work to bring back the mystique and make things more interesting (<http://www.glamour.com/sex-love-life/blogs/smitten/2015/02/have-better-sex-tonight-11-way>). Sex is a hot topic—when it gets a little vanilla, it has a tendency to trigger panic. Relax. And then roll up your sleeves to make some changes."

2. He may bring some "bachelor" habits into your combined abode. "Some guys are astonished that it bothers you when they try to have the best of both worlds—being a bachelor and a live-in lover," says Masini. "You may want to have the toilet seat down and be able to walk into your home without finding half a dozen guys throwing empty pizza boxes into a trash can across the living room—and missing! Moving in together (<http://www.glamour.com/sex-love-life/blogs/smitten/2015/02/how-long-would-you-wait-to-mov>) means adjusting to a roommate who's your partner and finding middle ground when it comes to living space."

3. You'll still need time alone. "Some people who move in together have the preconceived notion that they're going to dine together every night and spend weekends together too," Masini says. "And while some couples are fine with this, most need time away from each other to be alone, with their friends, and having a life of their own that's compatible with their life as a live-in lover. Not expecting your live-in boyfriend to fulfill all your needs is a healthy place to start."

4. Being open about what you earn and spend is necessary. "Money (<http://www.glamour.com/inspired/blogs/the-conversation/2015/02/money-mistakes>) is sometimes a big one—especially when there's an income discrepancy," says Masini. "Who pays for what isn't romantic, and sometimes what was agreed on in the swoon of the moment doesn't feel right once you're both living together. This is also a time when couples may discover that one person in the relationship is a lot more of a spender than was previously known—and that can be a problem."

5. Someone may want to talk about the next step. "If marriage (<http://www.glamour.com/sex-love-life/blogs/smitten/2015/03/marriage-advice-john-gottmanouch-oops>) wasn't on the table before the move-in, and one person in the relationship expected the move-in to trigger a proposal while the other thought the move-in was an end to itself, there can be conflict," Masini warns. "For many people, living together is as good as marriage, and for others, it's not enough. *Before* you move in together is a good time to get a handle on goals and time tables."

From your own experience—or what you've learned from friends—what else can happen when you move in with your boyfriend? Any advice for dealing with these changes or others?



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Writer and winophile. Always says no on a first date, unless the question is pizza. Prefers buying a new wardrobe to doing laundry.

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