

# How to be a Good Neighbor

By Laura Otto



A little consideration goes a long way when you live in a community. From first-time homebuyers to longtime residents, most everyone can agree that a clean and friendly neighborhood helps encourage [community harmony](#).

According to a recent [Community Association Institute](#) poll, 42% say they know their neighbors very well. When asked what is the best way to welcome new neighbors? More than 50% said saying hello when walking their pet. Despite the digital age we live in, face-to-face interaction was the number one way neighbors communicate.

Here's how you can be a good neighbor beyond just a smile and a wave:

- Welcome any new neighbors to the community with a handwritten note or stop by and introduce yourself.
- Make sure that the outside of your home, including your yard, is well-kept and complies with your association's rules.
- Be mindful of noise—loud music, barking dogs, power tools—that may [disrupt](#) the neighborhood beyond a reasonable hour.
- If you throw a big party, communicate your community's parking rules with your guests, end the event at a reasonable hour, and invite your neighbors to join in the fun.
- If you borrow something from your neighbor, return it promptly and in the same condition they lent it to you and express your thanks.



- Replace anything of your neighbor's that you, your children, or your pets break.
- Respect your neighbor's privacy.
- Offer to take care of mail pick-up, plants, or pets while your neighbor is on vacation.
- Be social! Inviting a neighbor over for coffee and conversation fosters new friendship and keeps your neighborhood warm and welcoming.

Do you think you are a good neighbor? Our survey found that an overwhelming 95% believe they are a good neighbor.