

# HOW TO SURVIVE IF YOUR CHILD MOVES BACK IN

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- ★ **Be sensitive to your child's needs—for a while.**  
Sometimes a child returns home because of a negative life change. Be understanding, and realize that a child moving back home is a difficult situation for all involved. Do not let yourself be exploited, however.
- ★ **Charge rent.**  
Match market rates—deep discounting will only encourage your child to stay where it's cheap and easy.
- ★ **Assign chores.**  
More people means more work, so delegate laundry folding, mowing the lawn, cleaning the porches, washing dishes, raking leaves, and other tasks. Do not offer to pay an allowance. If other family members have also moved in—your son- or daughter-in-law or grandchildren—give them chores as well.
- ★ **Motivate change.**  
Place the classified advertisements section of the newspaper by your child's door. Do not change the message on your answering machine. Do not provide him with meals, change his bed linens, or allow him to watch television in the family room.

- ★ **Do not alter your new lifestyle.**  
Continue to host your book group, bridge club, and cocktail parties. Continue to use his old room for its new purpose—sewing, exercising, big screen television watching.

## HOW TO PREVENT REENTRY

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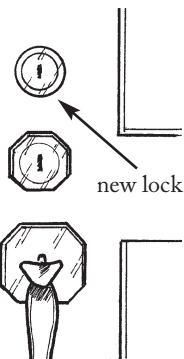
- ★ **Change the locks.**  
Change the alarm code, too.
- ★ **Paint the house.**  
He might not recognize an unfamiliar color.
- ★ **Hide the car.**  
Park around the corner.
- ★ **Put a different name on the door/mailbox.**
- ★ **Get a large, unfriendly pet.**  
Any size dog or cat can be effective if he is allergic.
- ★ **Move to a smaller place.**
- ★ **Disappear.**  
Go on an extended vacation, rent an RV, or simply move out of town. Turn off your cell phone. Do not leave a forwarding address.



*Put a different name  
on the mailbox.*



*Get a large unfriendly pet.*



*Change the locks.*



*Disappear.*

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## Be Aware

Parenting is forever.