



“I’m Ba-a-a-a-ck!”

Sometimes your job search career path takes you home again.

When all roads lead to Home.

If you’re graduating and find that your career path is leading you right back to Mom and Dad’s front door, don’t be surprised. Surveys show that up to 80% of graduates are moving back home, a figure that has been climbing steadily since 2006.

Whether it’s the high cost of renting an apartment, student loan debt, the tough job market, a chance to decide your next career step, or simply a means to save for the future, more and more young graduates are boomeranging back to the nest.

Millennial job seekers often find the price is right to move in with their parents: close family ties, three square meals, laundry service, the family wheels. However, perks can come with a price. While most parents won’t ask for money, it’s still their roof — and their rules. Plus, keep in mind that your objective is to find a job and build a career. With a college education and degree, you’re now an adult, so you need to act and plan accordingly.

This is not a vacation.

Moving back home may be a smart move, but focus on making it temporary stay. As a graduate, your objective is to work towards career independence. Chances are you’re moving back home for economic reasons. Even with a high entry-level salary, once you figure in taxes, rent, student loan repayment, food, utilities, transportation, insurance, and general miscellaneous, there may be little left over. Understand your reasons for moving back home so you can plan accordingly. Determine a job search road map or game plan to follow. Establish a timeframe and goals you’d like to achieve. With most creature comforts taken care of and no distractions, you can afford to be proactive and focus on your job search. Prove to yourself and your folks that all that tuition and study paid off.

Living at home can help you transition into the real world. The money saved, plus money earned if you DO have a job, can help you build your financial, even retirement, resources. In fact, being able to consistently invest your money in savings starting in your 20’s can give you a huge amount of time to build wealth.

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Couch potato is not a career.

Use your time and resources wisely.

Set a timeline. Establish short- and long-term goals. Deadlines are always an effective motivator (remember those term papers?). Is your objective to find a job in three months, six months, and move out? Is it to first save up X amount of money? The truth is, the longer you stay, the easier it is to get sucked back into the parent/child mentality, which can undermine your job search.

Pay for expenses. The act of being able to pay for yourself creates a sense of empowerment and builds confidence; you’re no longer a child depending on an allowance. Most parents won’t request you pay rent. However, it will make them feel good to know you are serious and mature about supporting yourself. Room and board may be free, but you should cover your personal expenses.

Be proactive. Be productive and serious about your future. Use your time and resources wisely. With minimal financial demands, focus on your job search. Use the Internet, including CollegeCentral.com, and local library to research job opportunities. Network to establish important relationships (see: Networking: 101), and connect with community leaders. Stay in touch with your career counselors, and be open to input from your parents and friends.

Parents are people. Face it, Mom and Dad have lives, too. They may have to get up early to go to work. They may have gotten used to (and enjoyed) your leaving the nest. Your move back could be just as much a challenge and change for them as it is for you. Be respectful of their space. Learn to communicate and compromise. Discuss your plans and ask for their advice. Chances are, they’ll be happy to assist. Help with chores and duties — you’re not a teenager, and keep the noise to a minimum.



i n a nutshell:

Although you may have had 18 years of practice of living at home, you’re now an adult so:

- **Focus on your job search**
- **Create a realistic job search timeline and stick to it**
- **Use your local resources to network and research leads**
- **Be respectful of your parents’ space**
- **Pitch in and help with chores**
- **If you drive the family car, help pay for gas**
- **Start saving for your financial future and retirement**

Sometimes you can go home again. But avoid becoming a fixture.

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