

Tips for a Great Roommate Relationship

A major part of the college experience is adjusting to a community living environment. You may have never had a roommate before, let alone this many close neighbors. Thus, you will be receiving a Roommate Agreement to complete with your roommate(s) within the first few weeks. We encourage you to keep a copy of the agreement and refer to it during any conflicts that may arise. However, we realize that not all problems are covered in the agreement. Take some time to read through the following so that you are prepared to be an outstanding roommate!

A Solid Roommate Relationship

A roommate relationship is based on many different components. One of them may be friendship, but this isn't necessarily so. Successful relationships include openness, respect, communication, and tact. Although each of you are different people, we believe that you can live together and even learn from one another!

Avoid Assumptions

In many cases, you probably will not know much about your roommate. Through filling out the Roommate Agreement, we hope you will obtain at least a small glance into the life of your roommate. Often times, first impressions as well as continued habits cause us to assume things about our roommates. We extend a challenge to go beyond those assumptions and discover the underlying factors that cause your roommate(s) to do what they do.



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Be Up Front

One way to avoid passing on these assumptions is to choose not to talk behind your roommate's back. Although it may feel good to "vent" and get things off your chest, the feeling is most likely only temporary and the problem won't be solved due to the fact that your roommate is unaware of it! So, if a problem arises, go to the source: your roommate. Try to be as direct as possible while at the same time being tactful and respectful in making your point.

Compromise or Agree to Disagree

Sometimes it may work out that you and your roommate agree on a solution to a problem, but not always. One way to solve a disagreement is to compromise. Flexibility and consideration are important in making a compromise, but being assertive is as well. When you are coming to an agreement, it is important to find a balance between respecting your roommate and asserting yourself. However, since you are different people with unique value systems and ideas, there may be times that you won't be able to reach a compromise. At these times, it might be best to simply "agree to disagree."

To Help or Not to Help

Human nature often inspires us to want to help people when we think they are in need. This can be great if your roommate needs help with a class, but sometimes you will not be able to assist your roommate with all of his or her needs. It is very important that you realize the abundance of additional resources that are accessible to assist your roommate. The Residential Life staff is always available for support, assistance, and advice.



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