

Tips for a great roommate relationships

BE CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING. Let your roommate know your quirks and preferences. It's not fair to expect him/her to pick up on them right away, and communicating what you need is one of the best ways to eliminate problems before they become problems.

ADDRESS THINGS WHEN THEY ARE LITTLE. Addressing things that bug you while they're still little can help your roommate be aware of something he/she may not otherwise know. Letting a problem fester is never a good situation.

RESPECT YOUR ROOMMATE'S STUFF. Don't think he'll mind if you take a granola bar on the way to class. For all you know, you just stepped over an uncrossable line. Don't borrow, use, or take anything without getting permission first.

BE CAREFUL OF WHO YOU BRING INTO YOUR ROOM AND HOW OFTEN. Be mindful of how often you bring people over. If your roommate studies best in the quiet, and you study best in a group, you can alternate who hits the library and who gets the room?

LOCK THE DOOR AND WINDOWS. This may seem like it has nothing to do with roommate relationships, but how would you feel if your roommate's laptop got stolen during the ten seconds it took you to run down the hall? Or vice versa? Locking your door and windows is a critical part of keeping safe on campus.

BE OPEN TO NEW THINGS. Your roommate may be from someplace you've never heard of. They may have a religion or lifestyle that is completely different from your own. Be open to new ideas and experiences.

BE OPEN TO CHANGE. As the semester progresses, realize things will change for you and your roommate. Be comfortable addressing things that unexpectedly come up, setting new rules, and being flexible to your changing environment.

ADDRESS THINGS WHEN THEY'RE BIG. You may not have been totally honest about your quirks, or your roommate's behaviors or routines change. Either way, if something gets to be a big problem, address it. If you find it difficult to address the situation, seek help from your Hall Staff. Your RAs and Hall Director are trained to help in these situations. They are a great resource.

BE MINDFUL OF SOCIAL MEDIA. Your roommate or someone they know will have access to your social media accounts. Venting online will create a bigger problem. If you need to vent, talk to your parents, a friend, or your hall staff.

FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE. Treat your roommate how you'd like to be treated.