

For most people, living with a roommate is a new experience. You and your roommate can be very different and still have a positive, successful relationship. Set realistic expectations to avoid disappointment and conflict, and remember—if you want to have a good roommate, you must also be a good roommate yourself.

How to be a good roommate:

- Be clear from the beginning. Communicate what you need and value most so you and your roommate can compromise fairly and effectively. Remember that compromising too much or not enough on one end is unhealthy.
- Do not be passive-aggressive. Express your needs clearly and constructively.
- Be respectful. Respect your roommate's privacy, belongings, personal space, and study, sleep, and social habits—even if they differ from yours.
- Always be kind and use good manners.
- Maintain cleanliness and organization. Do your share of chores, and don't leave messes.
- Never talk about your roommate behind her back.
- Address your individual preferences, expectations, and quirks before they become problems.
- Lock the doors and windows every time you leave the room, no matter how long.
- Be open to adaptation and trying new things. Be respectful of differences and changes.
- Be mindful of who you bring into your space and how often.
- Be honest. Problems and misunderstandings will only fester if ignored.
- Serve your roommate—do little things to help her feel your respect and appreciation.

How to avoid roommate conflict:

Cleanliness

- Establish a standard of cleanliness you both agree on.
- Work out a schedule for what chores need to be done and how often.

Sharing

- Set clear boundaries about what and when you are willing to share. Always respect your roommate's wishes.
- When in doubt, ask permission first.

Sleeping, Socializing, and Studying Habits

Figure out your individual sleeping, socializing, and studying habits and decide basic rules that you can both agree on and that meet both your needs. Ask and answer the following questions:

- What time do you usually go to sleep and wake up?
- Can you sleep with music playing, lights on, or windows open?
- Can you study with background noise?
- When do you prefer guests to leave and phone calls to end?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Make sure you're recognizing the difference between regular conflicts and potentially unsafe situations. Report any concerns promptly for a safe and harmonious living environment.

Report a Concern
reportaconcern.byuh.edu

**REMEMBER THE
THREE Cs**
Courtesy
Communication
Compromise