

Topics to Discuss with Roommates

Logistics

Rent and Utilities:

- Will we split rent evenly?
- Will one person pay more for a bigger space or other amenity?
- How will we pay rent? Will one person write a check; both write separate checks? Who submits the rent check to the landlord?
- What are the costs for hooking up the utilities? Deposits?
- Electricity, water, garbage costs? Who pays?
- What about cable and internet costs?

Food/Shopping:

- Will we grocery shop together, and split the costs? Buy our own food?
- Do we each have space in the kitchen for our food?
- Is it OK to eat/drink something that is not mine? Is it expected that I replace what I eat/drink?
- Will we split costs for garbage bags, dish washing soap, paper towels, cleaning supplies?

Cleanliness/Cleaning Responsibilities:

- How clean do we expect things to stay? Does “clean” mean the same thing to both of us?
- Can I leave my dishes in the sink until I am ready to clean them?
- What is OK to leave/store in private areas?
- Will we set up a cleaning/chores schedule? Will we each be assigned chores?
- Are we expected to do yard work? What about snow removal?

Interpersonal

Noise/Study Times:

- Are there expectations that the house will be quiet during certain times of the week/semester?
- What would be the best way to let my roommate know that I need it to be quiet?
- Is it OK to play music/video games/watch TV in the common areas? What is too loud? Too late?

Sharing of Personal Items:

- Is it OK to borrow personal items without permission? What is “off limits”?

Overnight Guests:

- Is everyone comfortable having guests stay overnight?
- If guests stay over a total of _____ days, that is too much!
- Where will overnight guests sleep?
- What if a guest makes someone feel uncomfortable? How will this be addressed?
- Who provides food for the overnight guest?

Privacy:

- Is it OK to go in to my roommate's room when they are not at home?
- Do I need to knock before I enter my roommate's room?
- Do I need to knock on the bathroom door before entering?

Smoking/Drinking/Drugs:

- If one roommate smokes, where can they smoke? Where can't they smoke?
- Is everyone comfortable with alcohol in the house?
- Are all roommates 21 or older? If not, how will alcohol laws be followed?
- What will be done if a guest brings illegal drugs in to the house?

Parties/Entertaining:

- Is it OK to have guests over?
- Is there any time when it is NOT OK to have guests over?
- If one roommate has guests over and the other roommate needs privacy, what communication is expected?
- Where do guests park?

Other:

- Who is responsible for bringing furniture and/or appliances?
- If furniture/appliances are purchased together, what will happen to them when the lease is over?
- Is it OK to leave the front door unlocked at any time?
- At what temperature should the house be kept? Is it OK to adjust the temperature without asking others?
- If laundry is left in the washer/dryer too long, is it OK for others to remove it?
- What other house rules should be set up?
- Should we post the rules in a common area?
- Do both roommates have copies of the lease agreement?