

LIVING WITH ROOMMATES

Committing to living with someone is a big decision, and it is important to make sure you will be compatible and on the same page before choosing to move in together. Below are some tips to help navigate roommate situations.

How to be a good roommate and find a good roommate:

Choosing roommates that are compatible with your living preferences and needs is important:

It is important that roommates share common values and expectations for their living space to help minimize potential conflict.

Ask potential roommates questions about their lifestyle, interests, and needs from a rental accommodation and roommate.

Sample questions can be found here:
<https://ucalgary.ca/news/im-looking-campus-housing-what-questions-should-i-ask-potential-roommates>

Being a good roommate yourself, is also an important part of living with other people.

Consider if you are maintaining your responsibilities regarding cleanliness in shared spaces.

Allow your roommates their personal space and privacy. Be clear about your own expectations for privacy or alone time.

Clean up after having guests over, don't leave it for someone else to do.

Be conscientious of disrupting your roommates and ask them if something will disrupt them if you are unsure.

For example: if your roommate is studying for an exam, it might not be the best night to blast music while cooking dinner. Being a respectful roommate means cooperating and understanding the needs of others.

Things to discuss before moving in together

- How will rent be split and who will pay rent to the landlord?
- How will other bills be paid and split (internet, hydro, cable etc.)?
- What are the expectations for shared spaces?
- How will chores be assigned/accomplished?
- Will you hold monthly meetings to check in with your roommate(s)?
- Will any rules be put in place?
- For example, rules about guests, quiet hours, chores, cleanliness etc.

- Will you and your roommate have a roommate agreement and what will be included?

- A written agreement can protect you in case your roommate isn't paying rent or is causing other issues for you.
- A sample of a roommate agreement can be found here: <https://www.cplea.ca/wp-content/uploads/SampleRoommateAgreement.pdf>



Please contact the University of Calgary Students' Union office if you have any questions or need further support:
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