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How to be a Good Roommate

Communication

Direct and honest communication is essential between roommates. Most problems can be solved with communication. Do not let problems build up. Talk openly and honestly about concerns with your roommate. Just remember that timing is also important: if you know your roommate is having a bad day, hold off until a better chance arises.

Discuss your personal preferences and characteristics, and learn about your prospective roommates' preferences and characteristics

Identify all the household chores and responsibilities and determine who is to do what and when.

Clearly communicate your feelings and provide constructive and positive suggestions to your roommates about their feelings

Financial responsibilities

Budget and plan for your respective share of monthly expenses like utilities, telephone, groceries etc. and determine who will be responsible for each of these bills and how and when the other will be repaid.

Share the responsibility of bills by taking some of them under your name.

Pay your share of bills on time

Schedule

Let each other know in advance when important events (projects, tests) are coming up. With advanced notice, your roommate may be able to make other plans in order to give you some quiet time.

Apprise your roommate(s) of your work and/or school schedules, and how and when they might reach you

Identify any special requirements you or your roommates might have from your schedules: (i.e. evening quiet hours for study)

Develop a schedule for cleaning the common and public areas of the house and other household chores on a regular basis

Socializing

Discuss your socializing habits - likes and dislikes specifically

Discuss with your roommate(s) and get their approval before hosting social activities at home

Discuss with your roommate(s) plans for overnight guests or visitors. If possible inform them ahead of time.

Personal habits and hobbies

Discuss with you roommate(s) your habits and hobbies, and understand their personal habits and hobbies

Be prepared to alter your personal habits if needed (like listening to music with earphones)

If you have to share a television, Internet connection, stereo, discuss when and how these resources will be shared

And Finally, live by the golden rule... "Do unto others, as you would have done unto you."

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