

The ABCs of Living with a Roommate

- A** Address things when they are little. If you talk about issues before they become big issues, it'll make things easier for everyone.
- B** Be open: Living with a roommate exposes you to new ideas and experiences. Embrace your differences.
- C** Complete your Roommate Agreement. It's a way to identify issues before they arise.
- D** Don't touch each other's items without permission. It's basic respect of personal items.
- E** Expect the unexpected. It's important to talk about things because you never know what your roommate expects or assumes.
- F** Facebook and Twitter are not the place to resolve roommate conflicts. Talk it out in person or with your RA.
- G** Guests should be invited with your roommate's permission. Follow the guest policies for your building.
- H** Have conversations about how you feel. Talking about your concerns is the first step to addressing them.
- I** Include each other when you want, but know it's okay to have your different interests.
- J** Just respect each other and each other's possessions.
- K** Know your limits. If you know something is going to bother you all year, address it sooner rather than later.
- L** Learn something new. Whether it's your best friend from high school or a new person, learn from each other.
- M** Make other friends too. Sometimes your best friends are not your roommate and that's okay.
- N** Never get physical. No matter what happens, don't physically attack your roommate.
- O** Open communication is key. Your roommate can't work with you to resolve the situation if s/he isn't aware of the issue.
- P** Prioritize your safety and security. Always lock your door...it keeps both you and your roommate and your items safe.
- Q** Quiet hours—know them; respect them. Quiet hours will help your roommate and floormates sleep and study.
- R** Roommate Agreements can change. If things come up during the year talk to your RA and you can make changes.
- S** Seek assistance when you need it. If you have concerns, talk to your RA or Coordinator for Residence Life for help.
- T** Talk it out. You can't address issues if you don't talk about them.
- U** Use the resources you have. See your RA or CRL for help if you need it.
- V** Visitors should be talked about before they arrive.
- W** Watch out for gossip. Even if you don't intend for something to be mean, gossiping about your roommate will only hurt.
- X** eXplain yourself clearly. Communication can be tricky...does "clean" mean the same to your roommate as to you?
- Y** Your attitude makes a difference. If you're positive about helping the situation it will spread to others.
- Z** ZZZs matter! Be respectful of your roommate's sleep schedule and ask them to do the same for you.