

TIPS FOR ROOMMATES

COMMUNITY LIVING GUIDE

Part of ensuring a great living experience is proactive communication and cooperation with your roommates. See below for some helpful tips on fostering positive relationships and navigating shared living spaces.

01

Get to know each other. You're going to be spending a lot of time with your roommate(s). Take the time to ask and answer questions about family, hobbies, and academic interests. Learn who they are and what they enjoy doing for fun.

02

Communicate. Open and honest communication is key in building a positive relationship. Talk about how you would like to communicate with each other when there is a conflict. Resolving issues early prevents them from growing larger.

03

Be open and friendly. Remember that all of you may be anxious and concerned about living with new people. Your roommate may be experiencing the same pressures you are. Talk to each other about what is important to you.

04

Define "neat." Whether you're a neat freak or more go-with-the-flow, you have other people's feelings to consider. Agree on how you are going to keep the apartment and how chores will be divided and managed.

05

Discuss visitation hours. Talk about when it's okay and when it's not okay to have visitors. Do you want your apartment to be a social center or a quiet refuge? Establish rules for daytime visitors and overnight guests early on.

06

Find an activity you can share. There's nothing like having something in common to bond over. Whether it's working out, watching a specific show, or joining a club, finding shared activities helps build a strong foundation.

07

Study times and habits. Talk about how you prepare for classes. If you plan on doing most of your work in your apartment, talk about scheduling quiet hours. Let your roommates know when you have a big test coming up.

08

Give each other space. Togetherness is great, but too much of a good thing isn't always best. You and your roommate(s) need time alone or with other friends. If that isn't happening naturally, communicate your need for space.