

Guide to Dealing with Your College Roommate

*How to get an “A” in
roomie communications 101.*

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Dealing with Roommates

You can't choose your parents and you can't choose your brothers or sisters, but you can take steps to get good roommates when you go to college. The tips in this free guide are from the new ebook the [College Safety Guide](#) brought to you by the people at www.CollegeSafe.com. Here are a few tips on getting good roommates excerpted from the [College Safety Guide](#).



Who you will live with at college starts with the roommate quiz and application from your college.

Be Yourself

Forget about trying to act cool, the people reading the roommate quiz couldn't care less. If you say that you are a bodybuilder because you lifted weights a few times years ago, they might put you with an Arnold wannabe who will turn the place into a sweaty weight room.

When you are filling it out be honest and maybe even exaggerate a bit about what is important to you. For example if you are a person that likes order and gets stressed when things are in a mess, then say that you are a neat freak and don't they dare match you with a slob or you'll go postal. People usually claim to be cleaner than they really are, sometimes to attract a roommate that will clean up after them.



On the other hand, if you use your floor as your laundry basket and wash the dishes one at a time from the big pile in the sink only when you need one, then don't put down that cleanliness is important to you. You might be hoping to get paired up with someone who is a real neat freak so that they will do all the cleaning and you can slide by without doing your share, but this will only cause problems in the long run. You are likely to find the underwear that you left in the living room slowly burning in a pile outside or in the middle of your bed. Or you'll wake up one day with a new hair cut your roommate was kind enough to give you while you were sleeping.

For more tips on protecting yourself while at college check out the **College Safety Guide** at www.CollegeSafe.com.

Sleeping Habits

If you have brothers or sisters or parents, you probably know how hard it can be to live with someone. Even if you got along great with your siblings, I'm sure that there were times where you wanted to kill each other. Start out by making life a bit easier. Make sure to get a roommate with similar sleep habits, too. If you are a morning person and like to go to bed early, then you might not want to room with someone that stays up late listening to old heavy metal classics from the '70s. And if you are a night person, you don't want a roommate that is all cheerful sunshine early in the morning doing Tai Bo exercises to Pink while you are trying to get some sleep.

Question: Are you a morning person or a night person?

“Meet” Your Roomie

When you get your room assignment and the names and addresses of your roommates, you should consider contacting them. Introduce yourself and chat with them. Find out a bit about who they are and what they like. Let them know about you. Also it is a good time to plan what to bring with you. You really don't need two or more complete sets of living room furniture. Talk about what you have and what they have and then decide what each one should bring. Maybe you can bring a couch and they can bring a table. A little communication is better than two tables and nowhere to sit.

What do you need to bring with you when you move in? The [College Safety Guide](#) has the answers.

Question: What are your options for getting to know your dorm mate BEFORE the semester begins?

Be Friendly not Freaky

Keep in mind that these people are complete strangers; they are not your friends...yet. So be friendly and keep the weirdness factor down. They don't know you and they don't know your sense of humor. Now is not the time to tell them that you like to dance around



naked to Elvis tunes. They might not get when you are joking with them and they'll just think you are weird or scary. You really don't want them to think that they need to sleep with a handgun under the pillow. On the other hand, try not to judge what they say to critically, you may have surprised them with your call and totally caught them off guard. Or they might be nervous or anxious about you liking them. They might just be trying too hard to be cool.

Question: How can you present your "best face" when meeting your roomie for the first time?

Be Fair About Sharing Space

Wait until everyone arrives before deciding what space everyone gets. It is just like *The Real World*. Watch a few episodes of the show this summer before you head off to school. It will give you a good idea of what can happen when you are thrown in a living situation with a bunch of strangers. And some are stranger than others. The people that get there first and immediately grab the best spots just tick everyone else off. There may also be sentimental or emotional reasons for staking claim to certain spots in the room. For example, one person may feel safer with the bed that is against the wall. Claiming space is a very tense issue and it is important to remember some people don't forgive and forget they get even. The semester can turn into a long nightmare if there are bad feelings lingering.

Question: When you see the dorm room, what space do you want and why?

When you visit colleges make sure to carry the **College Safety Survey** and the **Safety Plan** from the [College Safety Guide](#). This will help you to ask the right questions and get the answers you need before heading off to college.

Respect Pet Peeves

Everyone has pet peeves. Some roommates will be upset if you get up to the White Stripes every morning at 6:30, if you leave toothpaste residue in the bathroom sink, if you borrow their clothes without asking, if you don't return their stuff after borrowing it, if you eat all their ice cream or if you forget to flush. Try to respect your roommates' wishes. Remember that if you respect their wishes, then it is more likely they will respect yours.

Questions: What are your top three pet peeves? What are your roommate's top three pet peeves?

Buy Separate Stuff

When you've gotten to know your roommates and even if they are your best buddies in the whole world, keep your purchases separate. Don't go in together on a new toaster and new decorative plants. Make a decision for one to buy the toaster and another to buy the plants. Just like how married people start a relationship full of warm and fuzzy feelings, separations can get nasty. Chances are that you will not be roommates for life and that you will at some point go separate ways. Plan for that at the beginning and keep your purchases separate, it is just too darn hard to cut those toasters in half.

There is a lot more information on "Dealing with Roommates" in the [College Safety Guide](#). Check it out! It is full of information and tips such as:

From the Chapter "Dealing with Roommates"

- How to avoid the dreaded "Freshman Fifteen".
- How to convince your parents to let you go on spring break and maybe even pay for it!
- How parents can keep in contact in a fun and non threatening way
- Choose a safe campus
- How to survive your college years
- How to deal with roommates
- How to find out how safe your college is compared to other colleges
- How yogurt can save your trip
- What crimes are worse at college than at home
- How to recover your laptop if it gets stolen
- How to party safely
- Protect yourself from the frauds and the scams that will hit your fellow students
- Be the hero in your group
- Build a strong financial future
- Protect yourself from possible terrorist threats
- Be safe walking at night
- Be strong, confident and independent

Visit <http://www.collegesafe.com> for online ordering to download your copy of the [College Safety Guide](#) and in just a few minutes you will have the knowledge and the power at your fingertips to make your college years some of the best years of your life.