10 Tips on managing a good roommate relationship
Roommate

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#1 Be clear from the start

Do you tend to hit the snooze button 15 times before you wake up?

What is your definition of ‘clean’?

Discuss with your roommate(s) your quirks and preferences ahead of time.
#2 Ask before borrowing your roommate’s stuff

Don’t assume your roommate ‘wouldn’t mind.’

Offer to replace what you break.

Respect your roommate’s space.
#3 Address issues while they are small

Miscommunication (or lack of communication) is often the main source of conflict.

Help your roommate be aware of the things that bug you, which he/she may not otherwise know, early.
#4 Your room is also your roommate’s room

The room is a shared space.

Listen to and be respectful of your roommate’s needs.

Keep your stuff on your own side of the room.

Lock the door and windows, so your roommate’s stuff doesn’t get stolen.
#5 Your roommate’s room is also your room

The room is a shared space.

Your roommate should listen to and be respectful of your needs.

You do have a say on what goes on in your room.
#6 Be friendly without expecting to be BFFs

You can become great friends with your roommate, but don’t expect this to happen from the get go.

Respect your roommate’s space.
#7 Be open to change and to trying new things

Your roommate may come from a different upbringing/culture/religion.

Respect your roommate’s opinion (even if it is not the same as yours).

How can your roommate’s background add to your college experience?
#8 Discuss the guest policy: How many and how often?

Do you always bring over your study group?

Does your roommate prefer to study in a quiet space?

Try to reach a compromise and offer to rotate on who gets the room.
#9 Address issues when they are big

You may have overlooked Tip #1, because you didn’t want to be ‘that’ roommate.

Big problems can become even bigger if they are not dealt with ASAP.
#10 The **Platinum Rule**

Treat your roommate in the way he/she would want to be treated.
The take-home

Have an honest conversation with your roommate.

Don’t keep it all to yourself. Directly address the issue (you do have a say!).

Talk to your RH or RA. They’ve seen it all before and know how to handle it.