



HOW TO LIVE WITH ROOMMATES

ASK YOURSELF

Before starting your search for a roommate, consider what's important for your living situation, and how you communicate best with others:

- Noise levels
- Guest access and stays
- Pets or service animals/emotional support animals
- Privacy
- Sharing (or not sharing!) food, cleaning supplies, and etc.
- Daily schedule
- Safety and security
- Ideal relationship with a roommate (e.g., good friends or just friendly? Regular chats or only as needed?)
- Preferred methods of communication
- Resolving issues and conflicts
- Any other habits, preferences, or values

FIND YOUR ROOMMATE

- Make a list of people you know who you could likely live with comfortably, and ask them!
- Ask those same people if they know of anyone looking for a roommate.
- Sign up at the [Off-Campus Housing](#) website to view roommate listings, or create your own!

LEARN ABOUT YOUR ROOMMATE

- Start by getting to know one another – even if you think you already do!
- Share information about hobbies, academic interest, your families, and other details.
- Try to learn about what's important to them – their values, priorities, and goals – and whether it aligns with what's important to you.
- And, check into all the things you originally asked yourself. How well do you align? What are areas where one or both of you may need to adapt – and are you willing to?

WRITE SOME GROUND RULES

- How payments will be shared, how monies will be collected, and how payment happens
- Deadlines for rent and utility payments
- Household chore schedule
- Items to share and not share
- Privacy
- Security (e.g., locking doors when leaving)
- Protocols for guests, gatherings, and noise
- Preferred communications methods
- How conflicts will be resolved

MAKING IT WORK WHEN IT'S NOT WORKING

- Be open, friendly, and understanding.
- Appreciate your roommate. Gratitude, respect and courtesy define positive relationships.
- Ask permission. Don't borrow or take things unless you've previously agreed on it.
- Be ready to compromise; you are both individuals with different perspectives.
- Communicate directly with your roommate when something is bothering you. Don't wait!
- Need more help with a conflict? Contact the NU Ombudsperson for help managing it!
- Check out the [Roommate Checklist](#) for additional tips!

Off-Campus Life
Scott Hall, Lower Level
601 University Place
Evanston, IL 60208

847-491-8430
offcampuslife@northwestern.edu
[@northwestern_loc](http://northwestern.edu/off-campus)

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