

Roommates: The Guide to Sharing Space and Being Happy

Living with roommates can be a great way to save money and make new friends, but it can also be challenging. Here's how to make the most of sharing space and living happily with roommates.



Roommates - The Guide to Sharing Space and Being Happy! by Malcolm Rockwood

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1. Find roommates you're compatible with

The most important thing when it comes to living with roommates is to find people you're compatible with. This means finding people who share your values and your lifestyle. Here are a few things to consider when looking for roommates:

- **Age:** Do you want to live with people who are close to your age or people who are older or younger?
- **Gender:** Do you have a preference for living with people of a specific gender?
- **Habits:** What are your habits like? Are you a night owl or an early bird? Do you smoke or drink? Do you have any pets? It's important to find roommates who have habits that are compatible with your own.
- **Lifestyle:** What is your lifestyle like? Are you a student, a working professional, or a retiree? Do you like to go out a lot or do you prefer to stay home and relax? It's important to find roommates who have a lifestyle that is compatible with your own.

2. Set clear expectations

Once you've found roommates that you're compatible with, it's important to set clear expectations. This will help to avoid any misunderstandings or conflicts down the road.

Here are a few things to discuss with your roommates:

- **Rent and bills:** How much rent will each person pay? Who will be responsible for paying the bills?
- **Cleaning:** Who will be responsible for cleaning the common areas? How often will the cleaning be done?
- **Guests:** Are guests allowed? If so, how often and for how long?
- **Noise:** What are the noise levels that are acceptable? Are there certain times of day when noise should be kept to a minimum?

- **Privacy:** How much privacy do you expect? Are there any areas of the house that are off-limits to roommates?

3. Communicate openly and honestly

Communication is key to any successful relationship, including roommate relationships. It's important to be open and honest with your roommates about your needs and expectations.

If you have any problems or concerns, talk to your roommates about them. Don't let things fester and turn into bigger problems.

4. Be respectful of your roommates

It's important to be respectful of your roommates, even if you don't always agree with them. This means being considerate of their feelings, their space, and their belongings.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- **Knock before entering:** Always knock before entering a roommate's room, even if the door is open.
- **Clean up after yourself:** Clean up after yourself in the common areas. Don't leave dishes in the sink or trash on the floor.
- **Respect their privacy:** Don't go through your roommates' belongings or read their mail.
- **Be quiet:** Be respectful of your roommates' need for quiet, especially at night.

5. Be willing to compromise

Living with roommates requires compromise. There will be times when you have to give and take. The important thing is to be willing to compromise and to find solutions that work for everyone.

Here are a few tips for compromising:

- **Listen to your roommates:** When your roommates have a problem or concern, listen to them and try to understand their point of view.
- **Be willing to negotiate:** Be willing to negotiate on things that are important to you.
- **Find solutions that work for everyone:** The goal is to find solutions that work for everyone, not just for yourself.

Living with roommates can be a great experience, but it's important to be prepared for the challenges. By following these tips, you can help to create a happy and harmonious living environment for yourself and your roommates.



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