SHARED LIVING
YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING WITH ROOMMATES
Welcome to suite-style living!

This guide is designed to help you navigate initial conversations with your roommates and your Residence Advisor.

Each section of this guide has been identified as a factor that can contribute to roommate conflicts. Discussing these items ahead of time will help you manage concerns that may come up throughout the year.

Before meeting with your Residence Advisor and roommates, take some time to consider your values, expectations and pet peeves.

Respect and Communication

It is important to develop a relationship with your roommate that is based on mutual respect and a willingness to openly communicate. A successful roommate relationship relies on honest and intentional dialogue.

Remember that your Residence Advisor is available to help you and your roommates develop a roommate agreement and mediate any conflicting points that may arise. Be sure to contact them if you need to talk.

My Residence Advisor is ______________________

They live in room ______________________
Getting acquainted

Meeting someone for the first time is sometimes a little awkward and first impressions can be deceiving. Try easing into the initial conversation with new roommates using simple questions and then exchange detailed information when you feel more comfortable around each other.

Questions to ask

• Where are you from?
• What’s your major?
• Why did you choose UBC?
• What are your favourite things to do?

Activities to do

• Have lunch, take a walk or attend an event together
Safety and security

UBC is committed to providing a safe living and learning environment. But we can’t do it alone. Your partnership and vigilance is critical. It is important to protect yourself by locking your doors and windows. It is also important to recognize that your actions can affect the safety and security of your roommates.

vancouver.housing.ubc.ca/security

Questions to ask

- Are you locking your room and unit door when you leave and when you sleep?
- What will be your policy on letting guests into your unit?
- How will you communicate with your roommates if you are not comfortable with a particular guest being in your unit?
- Have you checked in with your roommate(s) lately, especially if you haven't seen them recently?
Belongings and shared space

The use of shared items and space can lead to conflict between roommates. It is important to talk about expectations in order to minimize misunderstandings and tension.

As for personal property, be sure to respect the boundaries set by your roommates and to ask before you borrow things that do not belong to you.

Questions to ask

• How will the unit living room be used? (i.e., studying or leisure?)
• How will the refrigerator and cupboards in the kitchen be shared?
• Are you comfortable sharing food? What about dishes and cutlery?
• Which personal belongings are you willing to share? Which items are off limits?
• How will household items (such as cleaning supplies, toilet paper, dish soap) be purchased and used?
Cleaning

When living in a shared unit, each roommate needs to contribute to the cleanliness of the unit. Roommates are expected to discuss cleaning standards and create a mutually agreed upon cleaning schedule. The schedule should be posted in a common place in the unit for easy reference.

Student Housing and Hospitality Services staff will schedule unit inspections in November and March. Following inspections and upon move-out, if there is need for additional cleaning and/or repairs for damage, the costs will be shared between all roommates.

Questions to ask

- How will you share chores, such as vacuuming, compost, recycling, garbage removal and bathroom cleaning? How often will these tasks be completed?
- What will be your unit’s policy about dirty dishes?
- How will you communicate with each other when you are not satisfied with the level of cleanliness?
## Unit Cleaning Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
<th>WEEK 3</th>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
<th>WEEK 5</th>
<th>WEEK 6</th>
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## CLEANING DUTIES

### Kitchen
- Wipe counters, tables and appliances (including stove top)
- Wipe any spills in fridge

**Other details:**

### Bathrooms
- Clean toilet (bowl, base, seat)
- Wipe down shower
- Wipe counter/sink/mirror

**Other details:**

### Recycling, compost, and garbage
- Take garbage from bathroom(s) and kitchen to waste sorting area
- Take recycling and compost to appropriate bins

**Other details:**

### Common areas
- Maintain living room and hallways
- Tidy and dust living room

**Other details:**
Sleep and study

Being able to sleep and study is important for your health, wellbeing and academic success. Discuss sleep and study habits with your roommates to ensure everyone has the best chance for a successful year.

Questions to ask

• Are you a morning or night person?
• When do you usually go to bed? When do you usually wake up?
• Are you a heavy or light sleeper?
• Do you plan to study in your unit or elsewhere?
• Can you study with music on or with guests present (in your room, in the unit)?
• What are your expectations of roommates coming home late at night/early in the morning?
Noise

It is important to understand that every person in residence has the right to live in an environment that is conducive to academic success and personal comfort. Your roommates’ right to sleep and study supersedes your right to listen to music or watch TV.

Quiet hours

Sunday–Thursday
10 pm–8 am

Friday & Saturday
1 am–8 am

It is important to be considerate of your roommates 24/7.

Questions to ask

Daytime noise
• What limits will you have on volume from TV, music, computers, etc.

Evening noise
• What limits will you have on volume from TV, music, computers, etc.
• Will you have cut-off times for telephone calls/Skype calls that can be heard outside of your bedroom?
Guests

Having guests visit your unit is a privilege that comes with responsibility. First, ensure all your roommates are comfortable with the people who are entering your shared unit. Additionally, remember that you are responsible for the actions of your guests. You must ensure they are familiar with and adhere to Residence Standards.

Hosting socials in your unit

As a suite-style resident, you are able to host a social gathering with alcohol, provided you are 19 years old and have obtained an approved Function Responsibility Form 3 days in advance of your event. Remember, as the host of a social event, you are responsible for ensuring your guests abide by all Residence Standards.

Questions to ask

• How do you feel about overnight guests?
• Is there a time that guests of other genders cannot be in your unit?
• How do you feel about guests of other genders using the bathroom in your unit?
• How will we communicate when we intend to have overnight guests?

Questions to ask

• Do you think it’s okay to drink alcohol in your residence unit?
• How would you describe your drinking habits?
• Are you comfortable with social events/parties being hosted in your unit?
• How much notice do you expect before a social event is hosted in your unit?
• Who is responsible for cleaning after a social has been hosted in your unit?
Roommate Agreement Form

Room/unit #: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

We hereby agree to the following shared expectations, and we agree these expectations will pertain equally to all roommates.

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<th>Safety and security</th>
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Hosting socials

If any of these shared expectations are not met, the following steps will be taken:
1. The complainant will approach the offending roommate to advise them of the violation and determine whether the violation occurred on reasonable grounds.
2. If the violation occurred on reasonable grounds and is viewed so by the complainant, no further action need be taken.
3. If a question remains as to the reasonableness of the violation, the Advisor shall be called to assess the situation and will refer the situation to the RLM if necessary.

Roommate names and signatures

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Important for all roommates to remember

- Keep communicating: Your agreements can always be modified.
- If you feel uncomfortable about something let your roommates know! Don’t assume they will know—they won’t unless you tell them.
- Try to find a mutually acceptable compromise when you don’t see eye-to-eye.
- Tolerance and consideration are the key points to keep in mind. You might have heard this before as “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” The golden rule still applies.
Welcome to the UBC Residence community.

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