SHARED LIVING
YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING WITH ROOMMATES
Welcome to your shared unit!

Living in a shared unit in residence is a great opportunity to meet and get to know people from diverse backgrounds and places, share unique perspectives and learn from your roommates about different living norms and communication styles—whether it’s from someone who grew up just down the road, in a different country or on a different continent.

This guide is designed to help you navigate initial conversations with your roommates, approaching any differences in a constructive and collaborative way. Each section in this guide addresses a topic that can contribute to roommate conflicts. Discuss these subjects with your roommates today to help manage concerns that may come up later. Additionally, before meeting with your roommates and Residence Advisor, take some time to consider your values, expectations and pet peeves.

Respect and communication

Ultimately, the most successful roommate relationships are based on a shared commitment to respectful, active listening and honest, intentional dialogue. If you need support, your Residence Advisor (RA) is available to help you and your roommates develop a roommate agreement and mediate any conflicts. Be sure to contact them if you need to talk.

My RA is __________________________ in room __________________.
Getting acquainted

You may be practiced at getting to know new roommates, but in case you’re not, don’t worry if it seems a little awkward at first. The best advice is to try easing into the initial conversation with simple questions and then exchange detailed information when you feel more comfortable around each other.

Questions to ask

• Where do you call home?
• 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 awareness are critical. It’s 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 your policy be 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

It is important to talk about expectations, so as to avert misunderstandings and tension regarding the use of shared items and space.

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

Questions to ask

- How will the unit living room typically be used? (i.e., for studying or socializing?)
- How will the refrigerator and cupboards be shared?
- Are you comfortable sharing food? What about dishes and cutlery?
- How will household items like cleaning supplies, toilet paper or dish soap be purchased and used?
- Which personal belongings are you willing to share? Which items are off limits?
- If you noticed one of your belongings is missing or damaged, how would you approach the situation?
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 staff will schedule inspections of your unit a couple of times per year. Following inspections and upon move-out, if additional cleaning and/or repairs for damage are needed, the costs will be shared between all roommates.

Questions to ask

- How will you share tasks, such as vacuuming, waste sorting/disposal and bathroom cleaning?
- How often and by when do you expect these tasks to be completed?
- What will your unit’s policy be about dirty dishes?
- How will you communicate with each other when you are not satisfied with the level of cleanliness?
# Unit Cleaning Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
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<td>Bathroom</td>
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## Cleaning Duties

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

Other details:

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

Other details:

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

Other details:

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

Other details:
Noise

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.

Questions to ask

Daytime noise
- What limits will you have on volume from TV, music, devices, etc.

Evening noise
- What limits will you have on volume from TV, music, devices, etc.
- Will you have cut-off times for calls that can be heard outside of your bedroom?
- What time is or is not appropriate for cooking dinner?

Quiet hours

Sunday–Thursday
10 pm–8 am

Friday & Saturday
1 am–8 am

For the best shared living experience, please be considerate of your roommates 24/7.
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 or in the unit)?
- What are your expectations of roommates coming home late at night/early in the morning?
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 the 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?

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

- Do you think it’s okay to drink alcohol in your residence unit?
- How would you describe your drinking habits?
- How comfortable with are you 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 in your unit after a social event?
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>Belongings and shared space</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.
- Understanding and consideration are the key points to keep in mind.
Welcome to the UBC Residence community.

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