

Apartment Roommate Etiquette

Here are some etiquette tips to keep the relationship with your roommate as smooth as possible!

- Clean up after yourself. Keeping your apartment neat can seem unimportant when you've got exams and a million things to do. However, this isn't your apartment alone, so being a slob is rude. Be sure to pick up your laundry, throw away your trash, and make your bed. It doesn't take that much effort to clean it.
- When your roommate wants quiet, be quiet. Doing otherwise is very rude. When your roommate is studying, go chat with your friends somewhere else. If you want to listen to music and your roommate does not, get some headphones.
- Never wake a sleeping roommate. Sleep is a valuable resource for a college student, so don't be the reason your roommate doesn't get enough. Be quiet when you're coming in late at night, and respect the need to nap.
- Do not use your roommate's stuff without permission. This goes for everything, including food. Similarly, don't snoop through your roommate's things. It can be tempting, but resist the urge.
- Be reasonable about visits from friends. Of course you can have friends over, but make sure you are not monopolizing the apartment. If a friend is going to stay overnight, be sure to ask permission. It's also important that your visitors are polite to your roommate. By the same token, be polite to your roommate's visitors.
- Don't do anything that makes your roommate uncomfortable. This rule goes for more minor issues as well, including grooming. If your roommate is grossed out when you cut your toenails in his/her presence, then don't.
- Never gossip about your roommate. It's tempting to vent about your roommate's annoying habits to your buddies, but don't. If your roommate finds out (and there's a very good chance this will happen), he or she will be hopping mad. If you have issues with your roommate, talk to your roommate about them. This isn't the easiest thing to do, but it's a heck of a lot more mature than gossiping with your friends.
- Never spread your roommate's secrets. Even if your roommate doesn't share his or her secrets with you, you're bound to stumble upon some private and juicy information. Spreading this kind of information isn't just rude: it's bad karma.
- Do not break your roommate's things. If you do break something, apologize profusely and pay for it immediately. It also goes without saying that you should not steal your roommate's things.
- Never make fun of or belittle your roommate. A little gentle teasing is okay, especially if you become friends. But keep your opinions to yourself about your roommate's funny little quirks.

Adapted from *College Roommate Etiquette Tips: A Good Manners Guide to Keeping your Dorm Room Peaceful* © Naomi Rockler-Gladen Mar 16, 2007