

Roommate Discussion Guidelines



It may be awkward to talk to your roommate or suitemate, after all you are probably complete strangers! However, now that you'll be living together, you should take some time to discuss your living schedules, preferences, and expectations. This will help you get to know each other better and hopefully avoid issues down the line. Use the items below as a starting point for your conversation. You can talk as briefly or as thoroughly as you'd like. Remember that your hall councilor is around if you have questions or if you need help reaching an agreement. Lastly, feel free to use the space provided at the end of the document to write down any comments or agreements you may want to remember.

- **Personal and shared property.** *Would you like to buy some food or stuff (e.g. toilet paper or paper towels) together? Is it important to you that your roommate asks for permission before they use your property (e.g. plates or microwave)? [1]*
- **Common space usage and cleaning.** *Are you comfortable with how the common spaces are being used? How important is it for you to have clean common spaces? Would you like to set up a cleaning schedule? Is it ok for your roommate to throw away moldy food from the fridge?*
- **Showering schedule.** *Do you shower in the morning or the evening? What is the length of your average shower?*
- **Room temperature.** *Is the room feeling too cold or too hot for you? [2]*
- **Noise levels.** *What are your study and sleeping hours on weekdays? What about weekends? [3]*
- **Guests.** *What do you think about hosting small study groups or parties in your apartment? How about friends/significant others coming for dinner very frequently? [4]*
- **Overnight guests.** *Do you want to have friends, family, or significant others as overnight guests? Is it ok to have sex in the apartment? [5]*
- **Future meetings.** *When do you want to check in with your roommate to make sure these agreements are working for you? **Decide on a preferred method of communication in the event you need to get in touch to prevent conflicts from developing.***

[1] If you let your roommate use your cookware, make sure you communicate special instructions for care (e.g. seasoned skillets or woks, carbon-steel, or non-stainless knives).

[2] Please keep in mind that both rooms are controlled with a single thermostat, and often one of the rooms will be warmer than the other given how the cooling/heating systems works. It's often useful to buy a personal space heater in case your room is too cold.

[3] Avoid slamming doors, if possible. Sometimes, roommates also complain about the HVAC being too loud. If you'd like to get free earplugs, contact your hall councilor. Keep in mind that S-P quiet hours are Sun-Thurs 12am-8am and Fri-Sat 1am-8am.

[4] Register guests in the S-P website. Every resident is responsible for their guest's behavior and possible damage to S-P property.

[5] According to S-P policies, your roommate has to give their permission for you to have overnight guests, and the guest may stay up to 3 nights per week and no more than 9 in a month. Please be especially considerate if the guest is your significant other. Your roommate signed up to live with one other person, and it can be very disruptive to have a couple (or a person of the opposite gender) in your apartment all the time, even if the guest doesn't stay to sleep. If you have family coming over and you would like to have them stay more than 3 days, please make sure to get your roommate's permission and contact the S-P Housemanager sp-housemanager@mit.edu.

Notes: