

“Why can’t we just get along?” Tips and resources to help keep roommate harmony.

Roommate Etiquette

Whether you are living in residence or off-campus housing, your roommate experience will affect your time here at Mohawk College.

While your roommate may not be your best buddy, there are things you can do to make sharing a place an amicable way of life for everyone.

Strategies: What you can do first

Establish Ground Rules

Getting ground rules established will help you and your roommates keep your sanity, and keep order in your home.

Cleaning

Dishes piling up in the sink, laundry all over the floors, hair clogged in bathroom drains... How old is that leftover take-out in the fridge? Set up a cleaning schedule that everyone can work with, and be mindful in cleaning up after yourself in shared spaces. Cleaning your room isn’t a bad idea either, you never know when Mom or Dad will stop by for a visit!

Food

Basic food necessities, such as sugar, milk, coffee, etc., are usually shared by everyone. Make sure everyone takes a turn purchasing these items, it should never fall onto any one person’s shoulders. You and your roommate can decide how to divide up the rest of the groceries or keep them separate. Always ask (and get permission) before eating items that were purchased by your roommate. They may be saving it for a special occasion or want it for dinner that night.

Music

You don’t like Madonna on replay and your roommate doesn’t like Metallica, what is a person to do? Music can be a major irritant with roommates. Be considerate, turn it down or plug in some earphones.

Borrowing

You are puzzled about where your G.I Joe limited edition action figure has gone. Your roommate has a presentation tomorrow about World War II...Did they “borrow” it? Do not use your roommates things, or let your friends use your roommates things without their permission. If you break something of your roommate’s, apologize to them and offer to replace it as soon as possible.

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Noise

When you or your roommate needs the noise level down, for studying or what not, be respectful and be quiet.

Visitors

You may enjoy hanging out with your friends daily, but your roommate may not feel the same way. Make sure you talk to your roommate before inviting people over, especially overnight. Don't have a party the night before your roommate's exam, it's just plain rude.

Significant Others

Yes your boyfriend/girlfriend is wonderful, but your roommate may not want to live with them too. Don't let their visits become overly frequent that your roommate may want them to pay their share in rent.

Pets

Your pet cat Mr. Sprinkles may be visiting for the weekend or may be living in the house with you and your roommates. Be sure to clean up after your pet and respect your roommate's wishes about space.

Privacy

A door is pointless if no one knocks on it. It is important to respect your roommates privacy. Even if you stumble upon some information your roommate didn't want you to see it's important not to gossip about it. Nothing breaks trust like a crazy rumour around school.

Strategies: What we offer

Roommate Agreement & Accord

A sheet of suggested information to help maintain roommate harmony. As well as a contract that outlines any general ground rules that you and your roommate have agreed to.

Strategies: If all else fails

If you are having more of a serious situation with your roommate, these are a few avenues you may want to consider.

Off Campus Housing Office

They can help by providing information about various student services, from mediation to counseling and can provide other relevant housing information. The Off Campus Housing Office is located in the Student Life Office Fennell room G08.

Community Policing

If your roommate has gotten into illegal activity, you have the right to contact the police. If you have concerns or need some advice, please contact the Crime Manager for the Hamilton West Mountain, Sgt. Caroline McLean at (905) 546-2447 or by email at: cmclean@hamiltonpolice.on.ca.

This is to not to be used as an emergency contact. Please dial 911 for any Police, Fire or Medical emergencies.