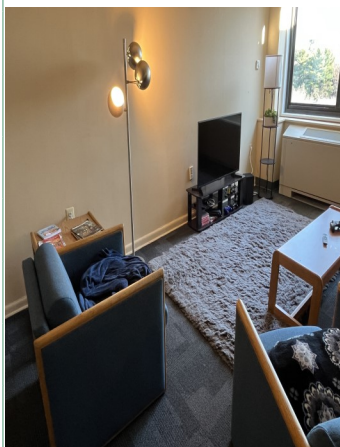




Front of Campion Tower  
I live on the 9th floor.

“NOW THERE COMES THE STUNNING REALIZATION FOR SOME—YOU’VE NEVER LIVED IN THE SAME ROOM WITH ANOTHER HUMAN BEING BEFORE.”



Me and my roommates’ living room—we both try and keep it free of clutter.

## How *Not* to Get Kicked Out by Your Roommate

### By Christian Belgin

College is the start of a new chapter and presents many challenges to many people like me, who have never lived with another person before. Whether you're rooming with one, two, or five roommates, this article will be very handy so YOU, yes you, won't get kicked out by your roommates.

## DISSECTING YOUR HOUSING ASSIGNMENT

When you get your housing assignment about a month before classes start, make sure to reach out to your roommates! Your housing assignment lists the building you are in, your roommates, and, most importantly, their contact information. This is very important as you want to be in touch with them early on so you can coordinate who is bringing what. You don't want to end up in an unfortunate situation where you have two toasters or sixteen sponges. It saves your parents money on their end, too, as you lessen the chance of overpacking. Talking with your roommates early on before the semester starts is also a good chance to get to know them. Find out what their interests are, what they like to do in their free time, if they're organized or not. You definitely don't want to be stuck with someone who just absolutely trashes your dorm.

So, once you and all your roommates are all moved in, now there comes the stunning realization for some—you've never lived in the same room with another human being before. That comes with its own set of challenges as you must figure out how to live with each other. It all depends on how much space you have, as some are put in apartment-style housing, and some in dorm-style housing. The dorm-style carries what many consider the traditional college lifestyle with smaller rooms, while the apartment-style are closer to real apartments.

## ROOMMATE ETIQUETTE

You always want to be mindful of your roommates when living with them. This means knowing their routines, what noise levels they can handle, and when they usually sleep. With me personally, I like things to be quiet, since it allows me to focus on work or sleep without getting distracted, but everyone is different! Communication is important from the day you move in till the day you move out. You don't want small problems that could have been talked about before to boil over into huge arguments. “When I left for Montreal, I asked my roommates not to eat my food while I was gone. And when I got back my suite mate and completely eaten like this pack of cookies that I had so I got really mad at him when I got back. Our suite-mates mediated it so it was all good at the end.” (Lang Gibson, Freshman Student, Lives at Thea Bowman Hall)

## HOW CLEAN SHOULD I KEEP MY DORM?

You and your roommates always want to keep your spaces moderately free of clutter or food. As your RAs will tell you, during the colder months ants and other pests will frequently try to nest inside the buildings to keep warm. That's how you end up mice or ant infestations in your walls, and you absolutely do not want that. So, for the love of god, don't throw your empty pizza boxes on the floor—

recycle them! Besides trash and food, always make sure to clean your toilet and shower at least once a week, as bacteria and mold can build up and be launched in the air every time you flush.

## DEALING WITH LAUNDRY

Another thing you want to keep clean is your laundry, as a huge pile of smelly laundry is bound to cause problems with your roommates. A good rule of thumb is to always wash your laundry when your basket is  $\frac{3}{4}$  or completely full, as it saves you from doing multiple loads throughout the week. Every building on campus is equipped with a laundry room, with plenty of washers and dryers. Keep in mind that the washers are a bit small, so you will have to break up bigger loads into two different cycles so they can get clean. When drying your clothes, always make sure to use 2-3 dryer sheets and empty the lint trap in the front flap of the dryers so your clothes don't end up soaking wet.



Entry to the washers in  
Campion Tower

## IMPORTANCE OF RESIDENT ADVISORS

Going back to your Resident Advisors or Ras—they are your best friends. Gary Schmitt, Director of Housing Operations, notes that “They are trained at the beginning of both Fall and Spring before residents come back. They learn how to address policy violations, how to resolve conflict and disputes with dignity and respect for identity. Training certainly includes many identity based components. We give them scenarios to act out, we call it ‘behind closed doors.’” Your RAs will also always be available for advice on places to eat on campus, get take-out, solve roommate qualms, or if you just need someone to vent to. My RA on my floor was helpful my first night before my other roommate moved in, as he helped me figure out how to get my mailstop number. RAs will also be able to help you out when you forget your key and, trust me, it will happen to you eventually. It isn't a matter of if, it's a matter of when. You can be absolutely positive that you remembered to grab it on the way out of the door for your morning class then come to the realization that it's still on your desk. If your RAs aren't available on your floor, be sure to call the Campus Police non-emergency number. They are a godsend when you are locked out and your RAs are busy in class. They can take some time to get to you though, so be sure to only call them if your RAs aren't able to run and get the master key to unlock your room.



Washers in Campion Tower

## CONCLUSION

All and all, college roommates can be stressful. Your roommate could trash the kitchen, eat your food, or refuse to clean the toilet. You can either choose to have a stressful relationship with your roommates where nothing gets done and you're constantly fighting, or you talk it out and solve your issues. Trust me when I say this, you don't want to have a bad relationship with someone you live with, because once the semester starts, you're going to be stuck with them till the school year ends. But, if you follow this guide and talk to them early on about their habits, you can all have a great time living on campus.

“TRUST ME  
WHEN I SAY  
THIS, YOU  
DON'T WANT  
TO HAVE A BAD  
RELATIONSHIP  
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YOU LIVE WITH”

