Northern Illinois University

Facts & Snacks: Roommates 101

From Moving In to Moving Out

Wednesday March 7, 2018
Overview

- Deciding to get a roommate
- Roommate searching at NIU
- Signing a lease
- Creating a roommate agreement
- Practical advice for roommates
- Roommate disputes
- Cleaning up, moving out, and deposits
Deciding to Get a Roommate

- Financial benefits
- Social benefits
- Sharing responsibilities
Roommate Searching at NIU

- Defining your roommate preferences
- Conducting your search
- Staying flexible
Signing a Lease

- Lease review: reading your lease and getting help with it
- Knowing your obligations and those of your leasing company
- Sample Lease
Creating a Roommate Agreement

- Defining roommate obligations and responsibilities
  - Rent/security deposit
  - Bills (how, when, amount)
  - Company

SAMPLE ROOMMATE AGREEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rent Per Month</th>
<th>Security Deposit Amount</th>
<th>Room to be Occupied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If roommates choose to switch bedrooms or pay different amounts of rent at any point, those changes should be noted above. Any roommate who does not pay the amount of rent listed above shall be liable to the landlord or to any roommates who pay any amount due for the defaulting roommate.

Address of Rental Unit: ____________________________
Term of Lease: _____/_____/______ to _____/_____/______

A security deposit has been paid by each roommate in the amount listed above. The roommates will divide the refund of the security deposit according to the amount each tenant originally paid as listed in this agreement. When a specific roommate is clearly responsible for fees and damages to the premises including late fees, repairs and cleaning costs that roommate will pay full fees and...
Roommate Disputes

- Complains about you watching TV at night.
- Shows up before your 10 am class.
- Not sure if you're a clean freak.
- What do you think your roommates think of me?
- Loudly bangs dishes for two hours every time you go grocery shopping and your roommate is like you bought nothing good.
- Disgusting.
- Moving in?
Roommate Disputes

- Shirking responsibilities
  - Not paying rent/bills in timely manner
- Communication issues
  - Disrespecting others
- General cleanliness
Practical Advice for Roommates

• Coordinating rent payments
• Splitting the utilities
• Sharing the chores
• Have a command center
Moving On

• Secure your next living situation
• Notify your leasing company in advance
• Cancel your utilities
• Time your move
• Get that deposit back!
Resources

- Find a Roommate
- Questions to ask a potential roommate
- Building a Roommate Agreement
- Students’ Legal Assistance
- Off-Campus Housing Fair