

How to have success with roommates: Part 1

As a traveler, “shared housing” can be a great experience if you get along with your roommate. Remember, you can’t change your roommate, you can only change yourself. How can you be a better roommate?

The key to being a good roommate is to be considerate of the other persons feelings and remembering the time frame you are working with. If you knew you had to live with this person for an extended period of time, it might matter that they are messy and always expect you to buy the toilet paper. However, if you keep in mind the typical 3 month contract, you can overlook these things. The important thing is to get along.

Don’t try to change this persons lifelong living habits in a couple of months. Try to have a sense of humor about it. If anything, be glad that you are not married to this person and be amazed at how someone could live like that.

All anyone really wants is acceptance. We all want to feel accepted for who we are. Furthermore, if you extend courtesy to your roommate, you are more likely to get it in return. For example, if they need a ride somewhere, take the time and give them a ride. Try to create a giving environment.

Having an open and giving attitude won’t make everything “hunky dory,” but it will make things easier and perhaps great. It takes two to tango.