

Successful Roommate: Part 3

Perhaps your new roommate enters the apartment in the middle of the night. At first, you contemplate calling 911 until you realize that your burglar is carrying luggage. You decide to get up because it is late and you have to get up early to go to work. As you get ready in the morning you notice their camouflage jacket on the couch and hiking boots by the door. Already you have formed an impression of this person you have barely seen in the dark. When you come home from work, you don't find a roommate....only the food particles they left behind on the coffee table. Meanwhile, the awkwardness is building. This could go on for days unless you schedule a "talk time."

Tell your new roommate (leave a note if you have to) that you would like to schedule a time to get together and get to know one another. This time will be well spent. One of the final and very important keys to success in being a good roommate is to initiate "talk time." It helps ease the tension and set a foundation to work from in getting along.

In the beginning of the talk, take time to find something you appreciate about this person. If you are lucky, you may find that you have similar hobbies and interests. Eventually, get around to discussing things such as sleeping habits, cleaning habits, and work schedules. Do they have a significant other that will be staying at the apartment from time to time? If so, how often? How do you feel about that? Cover the basics. Be upfront and honest. You will find this "talk time" to be of great value in the months ahead.