

50 Questions to Ask Your Roommate Before Move-In

A realistic conversation guide for sleep, guests, cleaning, shared items, food, privacy, money, and avoiding awkward roommate problems later.

What this PDF includes: 50 roommate questions, quick start tips, shared item rules, buy-before vs wait-to-buy guidance, school-rule reminders, a decision tracker, and notes for your final room agreement.

Student	Roommate(s)	Dorm / hall

Quick Start

- Send this before move-in, not after the room already feels awkward.
- Start with sleep, guests, cleaning, and shared items first.
- Ask your roommate first before buying anything big or shared.
- Check your school rules for appliances, guests, candles, pets, and wall decor.
- Buy personal basics before move-in, but wait on bulky shared items until you see the room.
- Write down the answers you both agree on so nobody has to guess later.

Simple rule: The goal is not to make the perfect roommate contract. The goal is to prevent confusion before it turns into resentment.

Sleep, Noise, and Morning Routines

Question	Notes / answer
1. What time do you usually go to sleep on weeknights?	
2. What time do you usually wake up for class or work?	
3. Do you sleep with noise, silence, music, TV, or white noise?	
4. Are you okay with alarms snoozing, or should alarms be turned off quickly?	
5. What should we do if one person needs to sleep while the other is awake?	

Guests, Friends, and Overnight Visitors

Question	Notes / answer
6. How often are you comfortable having friends in the room?	
7. Should we text first before bringing someone over?	
8. Are overnight guests okay, and how much notice should we give?	
9. Are there days or times when guests should not come over?	
10. What guest behavior would make you uncomfortable?	

Tip: If the answer is not a clear yes, treat it as a maybe. It is better to ask twice than assume something is okay.

Cleaning, Trash, and Shared Chores

Question	Notes / answer
11. What does a clean dorm room mean to you?	
12. How often should we take out food trash and regular trash?	
13. Who will wipe shared surfaces, vacuum, or sweep?	
14. How should we handle clutter in shared spaces?	
15. What should we do if one person is too busy to clean that week?	

Bathroom, Laundry, and Hygiene

Question	Notes / answer
16. Are we sharing any bathroom supplies, or keeping everything separate?	
17. Where should wet towels, shower caddies, and laundry bags go?	
18. How often do you usually do laundry?	
19. Are there scents, sprays, detergents, or products you avoid?	
20. For suite bathrooms, how should we split toilet, sink, mirror, and floor cleaning?	

Buy-before vs. wait: Buy your personal essentials early. Wait on shared appliances, rugs, extra storage, and bulky decor until you confirm space, rules, and who is bringing what.

Food, Fridge, and Snacks

Question	Notes / answer
21. Are we sharing a mini fridge, microwave, coffee maker, or snack area?	
22. Should food be labeled, or is some food okay to share?	
23. What is the rule for leftovers, expired food, or strong smells?	
24. How should we split fridge shelves, bins, or freezer space?	
25. Do you have allergies, dietary needs, or foods that should not be in the room?	

Shopping, Shared Items, and Money

Question	Notes / answer
26. What items should we buy before move-in, and what should wait?	
27. What should we ask each other before buying duplicates?	
28. Which items are shared, and which items are personal only?	
29. How will we split costs for shared supplies?	
30. What should happen if one person damages or uses up a shared item?	

Check your school rules: Guest policies, appliances, candles, extension cords, wall damage, pets, and lofting rules can vary by campus and dorm building.

Space, Storage, and Decor

Question	Notes / answer
31. Which areas are personal space, and which areas are shared space?	
32. How much decor are you comfortable with in shared areas?	
33. Are there colors, lights, posters, scents, or decorations you dislike?	
34. How should we handle storage under beds, closets, and shared floor space?	
35. What should we wait to buy until we see the actual room layout?	

Studying, Classes, and Work

Question	Notes / answer
36. Do you prefer studying in the room, library, lounge, or outside?	
37. What noise level is okay when one of us is studying?	
38. Are video calls, gaming, or phone calls okay during study time?	
39. What times are usually high-focus or quiet times for you?	
40. How should we handle finals week or stressful school weeks?	

Privacy, Safety, and Boundaries

Question	Notes / answer
41. What items should never be borrowed without asking?	
42. Are there privacy rules for desks, beds, closets, drawers, or packages?	
43. What should we do before posting photos or videos taken in the room?	
44. Are there safety or housing rules we should check before buying anything?	
45. What should we do if one person feels uncomfortable but does not want a big confrontation?	

Communication and Conflict Plan

Question	Notes / answer
46. Do you prefer texting, talking in person, sticky notes, or a shared group chat?	
47. How should we bring up small issues before they become bigger problems?	
48. What is the best way to remind each other about chores or guests?	
49. What should we do if we disagree about a room rule?	
50. When should we involve an RA, housing staff, or another neutral person?	

Turn Answers Into Room Rules

After you talk through the questions, write down the answers that actually affect daily dorm life.

Topic	What we agreed on	Who handles it?
Sleep / quiet hours		
Guests / overnight visitors		
Cleaning / trash		
Fridge / food sharing		
Shared purchases		
Borrowing items		

Shopping Boundaries

Category	Examples	Decision
Buy before move-in	Sheets, towels, shower shoes, medicine, chargers, hamper	Personal basics
Ask your roommate first	Mini fridge, microwave, rug, fan, mirror, shared cleaning supplies	Avoid duplicates
Wait until you see the room	Extra storage, bulky decor, second chair, big organizers	Measure first
Check your school rules	Appliances, candles, extension cords, wall decor, pets, guests	Confirm before buying

Roommate-friendly CTA: Send this PDF, pick a time to talk, and turn the biggest answers into your roommate agreement before move-in day.

Notes and Custom Room Rules

Use this space for housing rules, questions to revisit, shared shopping notes, allergy notes, or anything you want to add to your roommate agreement.

DormRoomBlueprint.com

For more dorm checklists, tools, and move-in planning guides, visit DormRoomBlueprint.com.