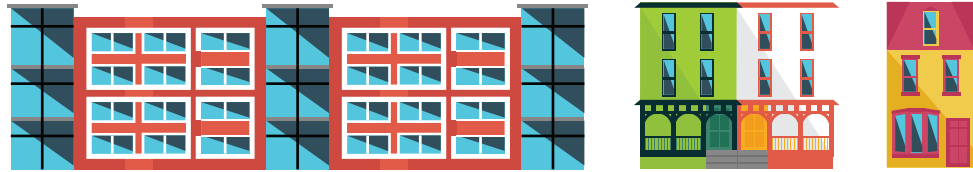




HOUSING GUIDE 2016



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HOW TO DECORATE YOUR ROOM

ON A BUDGET

How to make a dull dorm room look beautiful

JINAH KIM
Staff Reporter

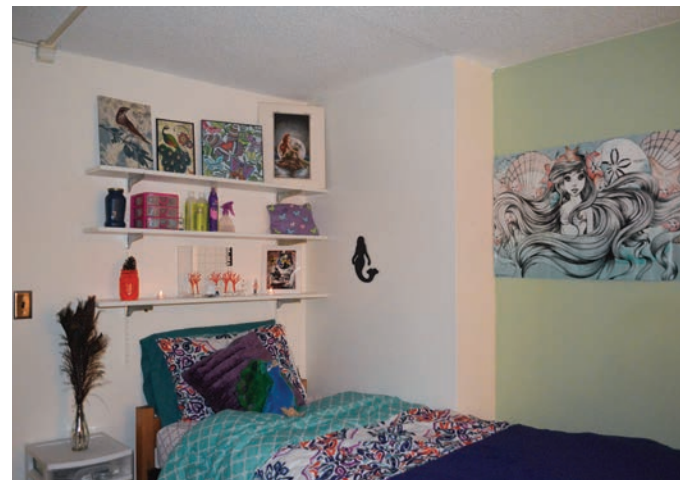
A college dorm room isn't exactly the coziest place — sterile would be more accurate, with plain walls, dim lighting and boxy wooden furniture. Luckily, there are things that you can do to make

your room a little more welcoming at the end of a long day — even on a budget.

1. Nails, tacks or even most kinds of tape are all out of the question for students living on campus, since the school places hefty fines for any paint damage. Washi tape, featured on many a Pinterest board, is a popular alternative; colorful and patterned, it also comes off easily. Use it to give the standard

Penn dorm room bookshelves an eye-catching edge, or to border pictures and posters or make geometric wall decals.

2. Empty tea or coffee tins, cardboard tubes or any other small container can be useful as storage: Decorate them with paint or colored paper to make them more eye-catching. If you have leftover glass bottles, take off any labeling and put them somewhere where



JASHLEY BIDO | ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

There are lots of easy, cost-effective ways to put a personal spin on your **dorm room** and make it your own.

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they can catch the light.

3. If you have a fridge, glue magnets to the backs of small ornaments to make decorative refrigerator magnets that you can use to hold up photos or shopping lists.

4. Succulents are popular dorm room plants for students and for good reason: They're small, relatively cheap and hard to kill. They also come in a variety of shapes and colors, from prickly cacti to pink-and-purple Echeveria.

5. You can buy a variety of

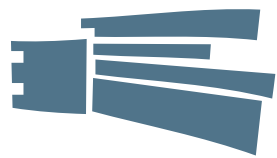
wall decals online that'll come off easily when it's time to move out. Put your own spin on them by using paint or permanent marker to embellish a simple quote or silhouette. Placing smaller decals in a regular pattern can also give the look of wallpaper.

6. Bulletin boards might seem too heavy to hang up, but thinner corkboard can serve a similar purpose. Alternately, try covering cardboard or thin pieces of paper in pieces of fabric, a lightweight way to pin up pictures or notes. Just be careful not to press too hard.

7. To dress up your — let's face it, usually not fully operational — blinds, stretch a wire or piece of twine across the top of your window and hang a light piece of fabric like a scarf as a lightweight, easy-to-remove curtain. You can also use a thin stick and adhesive-backed hooks.

8. Don't just focus on your walls; dressers, desks and wardrobes create large, blank expanses that can feel drab or oppressive. Anything that you can put on a wall can go on a dresser; try hanging a corkboard on the inside of a wardrobe to hang light jewelry like necklaces or earrings.

9. Don't feel limited in what you can use for posters. Use smaller pieces of paper to create a mosaic, or create your own collages. Instead of heavy and expensive picture frames, you can use a colorful piece of poster board as backing to create the effect of a frame.



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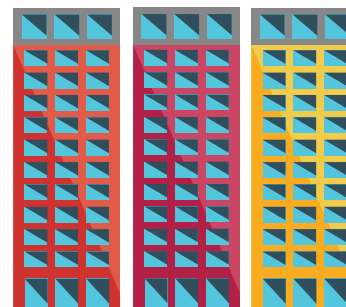
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WHAT MAKES RAs

AND GAs GREAT



Free food, friendliness and helpfulness are key

NICOLE RUBIN
Staff Reporter

Living in a dorm automatically entails close corridors, shared facilities and, of course, a resident advisor or graduate associate. This can be seen as one of the greatest drawbacks of dorm life or a major bonus.

Some RAs or GAs can be a good source of information or support, especially for freshmen. The Daily Pennsylvanian took a look at what makes all-star RAs and GAs indispensable to their halls.

College freshman Madison Kahn said her GA created a nice social environment in his room for his students to hang out and talk.

"I would look forward to returning from classes usually twice a week to find my GA with a box of Insomnia cookies or a box of Domino's," she said. "He always left his door open to talk about whatever we wanted, for however long we wanted. He is the best person ever.

"I even Instagrammed him once," she added.

Providing free food appears to be the best way to please residents. While some leave hot chocolate packets and candy outside of their doors, others go a little further.

College junior Zoe Stern described her freshman year RA as "amazingly friendly and beautiful." She said, "Every week, she made us buffalo chicken dip and baked Brie in the lounge."

Though Stern thought that the end of the year would be the end of her friendship with her RA, she said that the RA still regularly interacts with her on Facebook and recently wrote in their old hall group chat, informing the group that she would be coming to Philadelphia in the spring and would be bringing their favorite buffalo chicken dip with her.

RAs and GAs can provide more than just support.

College sophomore Francesca Reznik said that she and her freshman year RA were, and still are, very close friends.

"One of the reasons he was such a good RA is because he tried to treat us like we were equals, not as if he was our boss," she said. In building a friendship with his students, he created a person for them to confide in.

Reznik described a time in which her then-boyfriend became very ill

in her room. Though he eventually called MERT, she felt comfortable enough to seek help from her RA, trusting that he would use MERT as a last resort and attempt to care for the student himself.

"I was hysterically crying," she said, "and my RA took all the sheets off of my bed and wiped all of the vomit off of my floor and allowed me to sleep on the couch in his room while my room aired out."

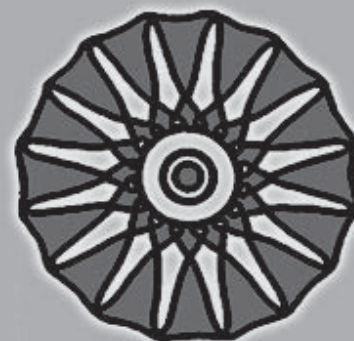
Reznik said that the best example of how much she values her former RA occurred over the summer. She was living in Philadelphia for an internship, and he was acting as a summer RA.

"I was living off campus on 41st, and my refrigerator broke, and all of the glass bottles in the fridge fell and cracked on the floor. I had glass on my feet, and I was bleeding at 10 p.m."

After calling him for help, he said, "I'll be over in five minutes."

She said, "He came over with nursing school issued gloves, a full medical kit and tweezers to pull the glass out of my foot, and he wasn't even my RA anymore."

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The Ultimate Checklist to Finding Your Dream Apartment

Pick the friends you want to live with.

Picking the right roommates is really important to having a good year. Make sure you get along and are on the same page when it comes to what you want out of next year's living experience.

Decide what you are looking for.

Do you want an entire house or an apartment? Figure out what is the best fit for the size of your group and your preferences.

Set a budget.

Find a price range that is affordable for you and your roommates. Use this to help guide your search.

Start searching.

Check out Campus Apartments or other housing companies to see what they have available in the area.

Take a tour.

Make sure to checkout your potential new home to be certain it's everything you desire.

Lock down the lease.

When you find the perfect place, be sure to go to the property's office as soon as possible with a photo ID and a form of payment for initial fees. For Campus Apartments & UCA, open leases go live October 14th so you have to act fast.

Sign up for renter's insurance.

Protect yourself and your belongings. Find a policy that works for you.

Set up utilities.

Designate someone in your group to find a provider for electricity, cable, and wifi. Look at the packages they have to offer and pick the right one for your needs.

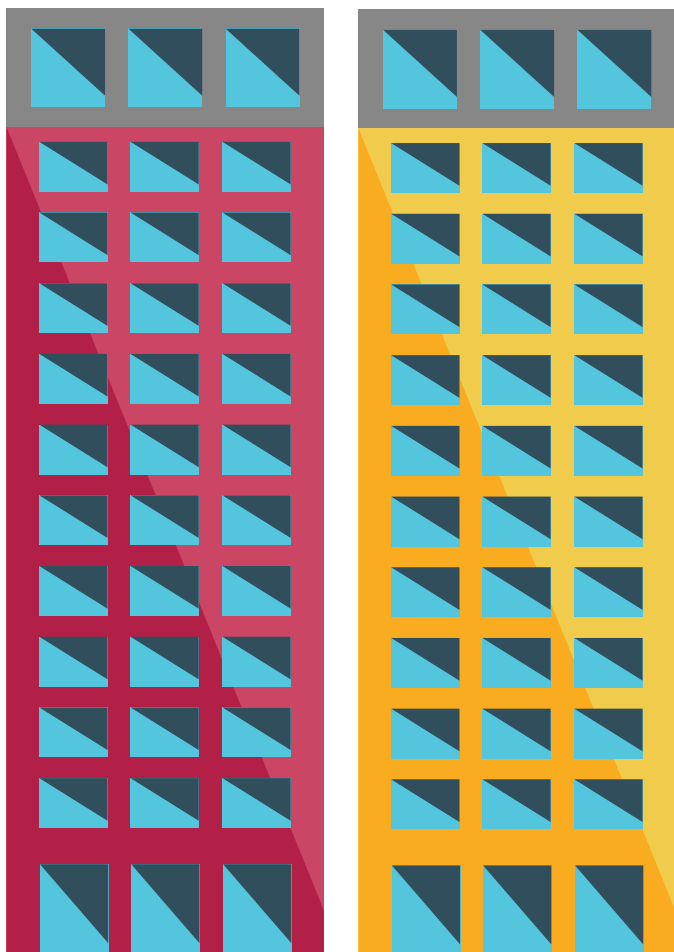
Think about furnishing.

Now that you have the apartment, you need to fill it. Make a list of what you need and search around. Many great deals on furniture can be found on sites such as Facebook and Craigslist.

Move in.

After doing all of the above, your new home is completely ready for you and the year ahead.

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HOUSING TIMELINE

BY JENNA WANG



OFF-CAMPUS

Students pondering off-campus housing for next year with Campus Apartments and University City Apartments can begin the leasing process Oct. 14. For the Radian, Hamilton Court, The Hub on Chestnut and Domus, check with their individual leasing offices.

ON-CAMPUS



2017-18 HOUSING

Housing assignments for the next academic year begin in the spring around January and February. The three routes undergraduates can take for on-campus housing are residential and four-year program housing, inter-house or intra-house applications.

The residential programs are located in the high rises (Harnwell, Rodin and Harrison College Houses), and four-year program housing is available at Gregory College House, Stouffer College House, Du Bois College House and the New College House, which will open up to non-freshman starting next year.

Intra-house selection is an option for students who wish to remain in the same dorm they are living in this year, while inter-house selection refers to students who wish to change dorms within the on-campus housing system — such as moving from Ware, a largely freshman dorm, to Harrison, an upperclassmen-only residence.

The exact dates for the 2017-18 on-campus housing application process have not yet been posted by Penn Residential Services. However, last year, applications opened for residential programs between Jan. 15-20, intra-house applications began Feb. 4 and inter-house applications Feb. 18.

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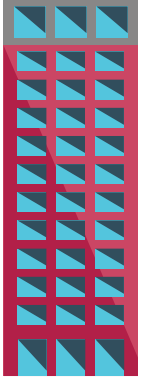
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NEW COLLEGE HOUSE

What students think of the newest dorm on Penn's campus

LEXI LIEBERMAN
Contributing Reporter

While the name "New College House" isn't that attractive, the building sure is. The simple brick and glass, while contemporary, isn't as architecturally sophisticated as the Quad — but from the inside, it's hard to argue that the building isn't spectacular. College freshman Lucia Kim remembers the first time she entered New College House. "I felt like I was in the 'Divergent' movie," she said. "Everything was so new and high-tech."

Indeed, you would be hard pressed to find a student who was not wowed by the New College House facilities. "It's like living in a hotel," Wharton freshman Megan Yip said. "It's been awesome."

"I really love it," College freshman Danny Cohen added. The New College House's freshman residents all seemed to share a positive sentiment. But some nonresidents don't look at Penn's newest dorm in the same way.

Katie Waltman, an engineering freshman living in Kings Court English College House, had strong opinions on the matter. "I live in a small, two-person room with no air-conditioning." She paused, letting that sink in. "No. Air-conditioning." She added, "It was over 90 degrees in my room on move-in day, and then there's other freshman living in New College

House with in-suite TVs and elevators that talk." However, Waltman wouldn't trade her humble English House dorm room for a fancy New College House suite.

"I don't need to even leave my own room to be in a sauna," she said, laughing. "But all joking aside, I think the lack of air-conditioning leads to more hall bonding, since people congregate in the air-conditioned lounges and study rooms. I've become super close with lots of people in my building."

A common criticism of New College House is that residents, who live in suites rather than singles or doubles that open up into a long hall, don't bond much with their hallmates. New College House students, after all, have TVs, air-conditioning and — in some cases — multiple in-suite bathrooms and showers.

Hill College House, which is being renovated this year, was previously known as the least desirable freshman college house — The New York Times even took a shot at it, adding Hill to its list of "Dorms You'll Never See on the College Tour."

Upperclassmen who lived in Hill said sub-par living conditions helped them bond, and none seem to be too envious of freshman residing in the New College House.

"I think it's great for the kids who live there," College senior Ben Kramer said. "But for me, the Hill experience of bonding in really tight quarters where I could hold hands with my roommate while I was sleeping, and sweat, and share a bathroom with 30 other people,



ATHENA PANTON | CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER



SAM EICHENWALD | CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER



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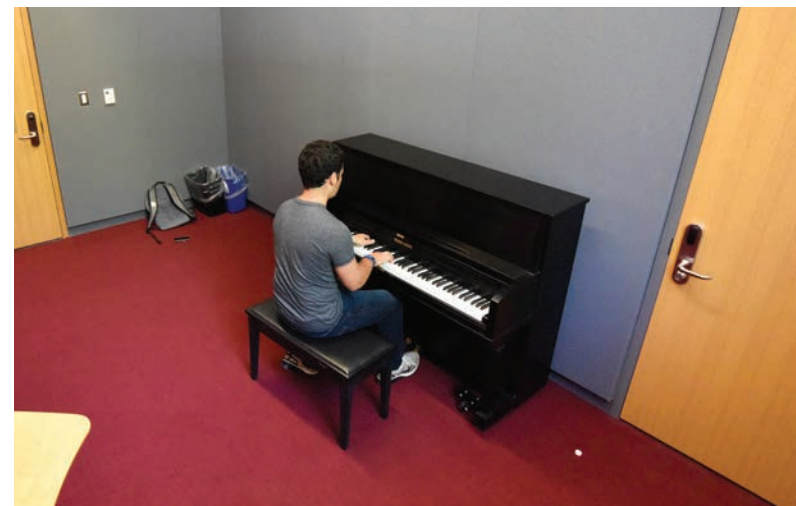
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PROS AND CONS OF LIVING ON OR OFF-CAMPUS

BY JULIA BELL | STAFF REPORTER

ON-CAMPUS



PROS

The views from the high rises can be spectacular

RAs and GAs often give their residents food

The walk to all of your classes is convenient

Laundry and maintenance in dorms are free

Utilities are lumped in with your rent, so you can turn up the heat in the winter

Rooftop lounges are great study spots

CONS

Having an XL twin bed can be inconvenient

Having an RA or GA can also be inconvenient

You can only have at most three roommates

Maintenance may be free, but it may not be prompt

The high rise elevators may be broken and can make you late



OFF-CAMPUS

PROS

No RA will tell you to quiet down if you're talking loudly after 11:00 p.m.

The longer you're willing to walk to campus, the cheaper your rent will be

You can drink in your apartment without risking being written up

You'll be close to food that isn't from a dining hall

You can prepare for adulthood by buying your own furniture and paying bills

CONS

You risk having to walk 20 minutes to Fisher-Bennet or DRL

You have to pay to do laundry

Finding a subletter for the summer can be a challenge

You have to learn to deal with a landlord

Furnishing an apartment can be inconvenient and expensive

Coordinating rent among several roommates can be tricky



GOOD LUCK WITH THE FALL SEMESTER, QUAKERS!

Whether you're studying for upcoming exams, busy with OCR, or getting involved in your extra curriculars, Penn Residential Services wishes you the best.

PLAN AHEAD FOR NEXT YEAR'S ROOM SELECTION

Information Sessions:

November 9, 6PM
New College House

November 12, 6PM
McClelland in the Quad

Room Selection begins on January 12 with Residential Programs and runs through the end of February

 Penn
Residential Services



Making the Move

You've only been at school a month and it's already time to start thinking about next year. As midterms and papers start to pile up around you, secure a place to live next year now and have one less thing to worry about this fall!

The task of securing an off-campus apartment may seem daunting. You've hardly just moved out of your parents' home and now you have to find one of your own! Relax. Making the move off-campus is simple.

The first thing you want to do is determine **WHO, WHAT** and **WHERE**. WHO do you want to live with, WHAT is your budget and WHERE do you want to be location wise. Once you've got that figured out, you'll be ready to embark on your search for housing.

Be sure to consider **Campus Apartments** and **University City Associates (UCA)** for your housing needs. They have hundreds of potential homes throughout University City, and have plenty of resources to help find the one right for you and your roommates.

Campus Apartments and University City Associates would like the opportunity to answer some **FAQ** renters have. These are all things to consider prior to signing a lease agreement:

HOW LONG AM I COMMITTING? Most leases run for 12 months.

HOW MUCH MONEY DO I NEED TO RESERVE MY APARTMENT? Move-in fees such as an application fee and security deposit are due at time of lease signing. A security deposit is generally one month's rent and is refundable at the end of your lease term if the apartment is returned in good condition.

DO I NEED A CO-SIGNER? This will vary. If you are a student, Campus Apartments and UCA do not require a cosigner.

WHAT IF I NEED TO BACK OUT AFTER LEASE SIGNING? Campus Apartments and UCA allows for a resident to pass down their lease to a qualified prospect or can assist you in finding this prospect.

WHAT UTILITIES ARE INCLUDED IN RENT? Campus Apartments and UCA always provide water, sewer, and trash for their renters. In some cases heat, hot water, and cooking gas are also included.

HOW DO I SET UP UTILITIES THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED? Most often, a resident is responsible for setting up utilities in their name at the start of their lease. Only one person on the lease has to apply for these services by contacting the utility provider by phone or by visiting their website. A bill then gets delivered to your apartment each month and is paid directly to the utility provider. To get a better sense of these costs, utility companies can provide you monthly estimates.

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMETHING BREAKS? Find out if your management company has on-site maintenance. Campus Apartments and UCA offer 24-hour maintenance assistance. Their team is on call for afterhours emergencies.

Once you have gathered the information that you need and determined the best housing option for you, be ready to sign a lease agreement! Go visit the company's leasing office and be sure to bring a photo ID and a form of payment for your deposit and any initial fees. You will start by filling out an application and then a lease will be drafted for you and your roommates to sign. Campus Apartments and UCA even offer the convenience of applying online! Be sure to read over the lease thoroughly and ask questions.

Open leasing goes live at Campus Apartments and UCA on Friday, October 14, 2016. You can check out their listings by visiting LiveCampusApts.com and LiveAtUCA.com; Be sure to sign early to secure your preferred apartment. Once your lease is signed, you'll have nothing left to do but count down the days until you move in to your new home away from home!

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The Do's & Don'ts of finding an apartment:

- DO** get your friends together
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BEST FOODS TO MAKE IN YOUR DORM

For when leaving home is too much work

NINA SELIPSKY
Contributing Reporter

1. Anything dipped in Nutella: Is an explanation needed? The options are endless — pretzels, bread, fruit... plus Nutella has hazelnut in it so it's healthy, right?

2. Instant mac n' cheese: Not the most gourmet, but it gets the job done when you're studying for mid-terms and don't want to leave your cave to go to the dining hall.

3. Oatmeal: A snack fit for a

Quaker! That was a poor joke, but in all seriousness, it can be hard to drag yourself out of bed early enough to grab breakfast at the dining hall before class, so oatmeal is a great choice for a quick and substantial morning meal.

4. Fruit salad: This can be a really cheap snack because you can "borrow" a bunch of fruit from Commons to bring back to your room. It's called being resourceful!

5. Cheese and crackers: So easy to make, and cheese and crackers are super classy to pair with your Franzia — or...water.

6. Nachos or chips n' guac: Take some tortilla chips, throw on some cheese and salsa, and you have a snack perfect for study breaks or cheering on your team during Fantasy season. If you don't have a microwave, stick to the classically delicious option of chips n' guac.

7. Soup: Everyone is getting sick right now thanks to the close quarters living in a dorm guarantees, so

make yourself some chicken-noodle or tomato soup and curl up with your box of tissues and cough-drops.

8. Dressed-up ramen: A spin-off on a college classic. You can add extra vegetables or seasoning to the noodles to make your own personalized stir-fry.

9. Popcorn: With this snack, you can transport yourself from your

dorm right into a movie theater. Whether you're studying or watching Netflix, popcorn is something you can mindlessly eat until you realize you've finished the bag (oops).

10. DIY pizza: This one takes a bit of creativity, but you can turn a quesadilla, some melted cheese, a few vegetables and your meat of choice into a pretty tasty pizza if Allegro's and Axis aren't your style.



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WHAT TO DO WHEN

YOU GET SEXILED

Don't waste your opportunity to be productive

NATALIE KAHN
Contributing Reporter

1. **Call home!** You probably haven't done that in a while, and now you have even less of an excuse than you ordinarily would.
2. If you've brought your backpack with you, **study** for something. Anything. You'll also feel proactive, which is always nice.
3. **Bother all of your busy friends** into letting you chill with them and distract them from doing the actual things they need to be doing.

4. **Go food shopping!** You're probably out of granola bars or cereal or something. Maybe even discover a new grocery store that's off the beaten path so you can kill more time.

5. **Go for a realllllly long walk.** Get a bit lost so it'll take longer to get back and you'll become more navigationally savvy in the process.

6. **Skype your ex.** Just kidding. Don't do that.

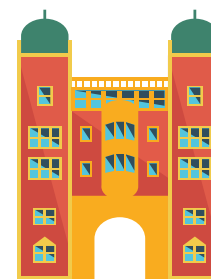
7. If it's night, **attend a party.** Maybe tomorrow you won't remember getting sexiled at all.

8. **Sit outside and strike up a conversation** with anyone who walks by, somehow incorporating your situation into each one. You

might make some friends this way too which is always a good thing. You can then laugh about this later.

9. **Get coffee.** If you feel really bad for yourself, splurge on a latte. Coffee shops are excellent places to sit and relax and not think about what's going on right next to where you sleep. Well, hopefully next to where you sleep.

10. See it as a challenge to **get some action yourself.** Just, elsewhere.



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WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE A BAD ROOMMATE

How to handle a tough
living situation

MADELEINE LAMON
Staff Reporter

Roommates — most of us have them; many of us have problems with them. Sharing your personal space with other people can be difficult, especially while dealing with the stress of school. If you happen to be struggling with your current roommate(s), here are some tips to help you deal with the situation:

Talk to them

This may seem like an obvious solution, but it can be difficult to overstate the value of discussing your issues with the people who are angering you. Try not to be passive aggressive because it's likely that you won't achieve anything useful that way. Instead, set aside some time to meet with your roommates and to discuss your issues. If you never explicitly state what's bothering you, then you never really give them a chance to fix the problem.

Define your space

Many of the issues that develop in roommate relationships seem to stem from issues with your personal

space. You and your roommates should set boundaries, and if things get really bad, you can even create physical dividers that make you feel as though you have your own separate area within your communal living space.

Create a chore chart

While somewhat corny, chore charts can save relationships. It's really difficult to ensure that everyone pulls their weight in keeping common areas clean, especially when everyone has different ideas of what clean really is. Set a schedule for cleaning so that no one feels as though they are taking care of more than their fair share of the house work.

Remember that you're not perfect

Perhaps you take hour-long showers, let your alarm ring incessantly in the morning or maybe your significant other has a tendency to show up unannounced. Chances are, your roommates have a few complaints about you as well. It can sometimes be difficult to coexist in the same space as others, even if we love them, but these annoyances are usually worth it in the long run, either by means of love, support or, especially, lower rent.



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