



HOW TO ...

## Make the Most of Dorm Life

by Adam York

Living in a college dorm can be one of the most memorable seasons in your life. However, the good memories don't always outweigh the bad. So when it comes to making the most of your dorm life experience, who better to ask for wisdom than those who've gone before you? As you embark on your dorm-living journey, consider these tidbits of advice from college grads to help you survive along the way.

### ENVIRONMENT IS EVERYTHING

"Two words: FLIP FLOPS. You never know what's living in dorm carpets, showers, and community bathroom floors." — *Amanda, Middle Tennessee State University*

"Don't forget something that reminds you of home — like a stuffed animal, picture of your family, friends, etc. Some days, it's just nice to have something familiar within reach." — *Tiffany, University of New Mexico*

"After you've washed a load in your dorm's laundry facility, don't wait too long to put them in the dryer. Trust me, your clothes WILL mildew, and that smell won't do you any favors when it comes to making new friends around campus." — *Daniel, Belmont University*

"NEVER cook fish in the microwave." — *Sarah, Tarleton State University*

"Take time to make friends with your roommates and neighbors. You'll meet people who you'll have memories of and be friends with for the rest of your life." — *Crystal, Middle Tennessee State University*

"Lysol is NOT a substitute for dish soap when it comes to washing dishes." — *Katie, Union University*

"Don't be afraid to conjure up new food concoctions. My most random dorm room recipes are still some of my favorite snacks to this day." — *Jason, Morehead State University*

"Wrinkle release spray will be your best friend!" — *Staci, Oklahoma Baptist University*

"Know the numbers to the nearest food delivery places! VITAL." — *Tiffany, Western Kentucky University*



### RESPECT ROOMMATE RELATIONS

"Know your roommate's schedule and always ask before having people in the room, borrowing clothes, etc. Communication is key!" — *Margaret, Samford University*

"When it comes to roommates, be prepared to work together and don't be set on getting your way all the time." — *Chad, Virginia Tech*

"Don't live with your best friend unless you're looking for a way to friend dump them." — *Heather, Mississippi College*

"Agree on a 'no talking to girlfriend/boyfriend on the phone after midnight' rule. I lost a ton of much needed sleep because of my roommate's late night phone calls." — *Joseph, Trevecca Nazarene University*

"Letting your roommate give you a buzz cut in order to save money isn't always a good idea." — *Ryan, Tennessee Tech University*

"Be considerate of your roommate's learning style. If he or she can't study with distractions, be aware of the volume level of your music, phone, conversation, and so forth." — *Emily, Mississippi State University*

"Set clear boundaries up front." — *Jeremy, Austin Peay State University*

"If you hide in the closet to tell your family about how much you dislike your roommate, she can still hear you!" — *Missy, Ball State University*



### HEALTHY LEADS TO HAPPY

"Get involved in a dorm Bible study. If you can't find one, get a group together and start one." — *Kailey, Truman State University*

"Give everyone on your hall a chance. Someone who may be completely different from you in personality, style, or family background could end up as a lifelong friend." — *Tessa, Hannibal-LaGrange University*

"Get to know your RA and make his or her job easier." — *Chris, Baylor University*

"Remember that God needs missionaries in dorms, too." — *Ryan, Liberty University*

"Study in the library, on a blanket in the quad, or on a couch in the commons. Go do stuff. Meet people. If you spend too much time in your dorm, you can get lonely ... [and obsess] over silly things like, 'Who drank my Yoo-hoo?'" — *Deitra, Belmont University*

Above all, remember that living in a dorm is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will only be as good as you allow it to be. Choose to make the very best of it.

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ADAM YORK is the production editor for Collegiate and a proud dorm life survivor. He's currently adjusting to downtown loft living in Nashville, Tenn., which he's found to be very reminiscent to his days in a college dorm.