

Your New Roommate

Let's face it. It's not always easy living with someone. While Pitt-Bradford is a friendly campus, you and your roommate still may disagree on a thing or two.

We've found that **the key to a successful roommate relationship is honest and open communication.** Take time to talk to your roommate. Tell your roommate what *really* bugs you. Don't let any of your concerns go unsaid. You will be much better off to get it out in the open right from the start.

From our experience the greatest challenges lie in

- **Cleaning habits.** In the beginning, everyone claims to be neat. But college life is busy. Cleaning is often the first thing that gets blown off. Make a schedule during the first week and assign jobs to each member of the house: taking out the trash, doing the dishes, vacuuming, cleaning the bathroom, etc.
- **Quiet time.** Some roommates may need quiet time to study at set times throughout the day or at particular points in the semester. It is your responsibility as a courteous roommate to be respectful of such arrangements and for them to be respectful of yours.
- **Different schedules.** Consider how often you would like to see your roommate or housemates. Some people have said that they would like to see their roommates more often; others, less often.
- **Food.** Unfortunately, not everyone is courteous when it comes to not eating other people's food or supplying an equal amount of food to the house supply. The best resolution for everyone to agree to only eat the food they've bought.
- **Safety.** Discuss with your roommate what time of the night the front door will be locked. Or, if the door will be locked at all times. And, if you are locked out of your room in the middle of the night, you can ask Campus Police to unlock the door instead of pounding on the door and waking up your roommate.

If you've spoken to your roommate and things don't seem to be getting better, you can discuss your problem with your resident advisor or with a member of our [residential life staff](#).

Another option is mediation. Mediation is a formal communication process between two parties with differing goals and agendas. The goal is to get those involved to agree on some parameters that will help them create a more positive living environment.

If you still have questions or need some assistance, contact the **Office of Residential Life and Housing** at 814-362-7630.