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**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW
BEFORE FINDING YOUR ROOMMATE
GUIDE**

ABOUT YOU

Hey, we're glad you're here! We are hoping this guide will help you figure out what's important to you in a roommate. Start off by answering these questions about YOU first.

- 1. How will you spend time in your new place?** Working, studying, cooking, playing games, being alone or hanging out with friends?
- 2. What school are you going to? What city are you moving to?**
- 3. Smoking:** While you might not smoke, others do. Remember this as you consider housing and how to clearly communicate with your roommate how you feel about smoking and recreational drugs. If you do smoke, remember you probably won't be able to smoke on the property or in the apartment. Be respectful and communicate what you do with your future roommate. It's better to talk about your smoking or non-smoking habits from the start than to get into living with someone that is opposed to your habits.
- 4. What is your budget for rent?** Not sure? Check out our sample budget to help figure out what you can afford and begin applying for financial aid or student loans if you have not yet done so.
 - o See our sample budget [here](#).
- 5. Do you have a cosigner?** You will need a cosigner if you have never rented before and/or if you don't have established credit. A cosigner could be a parent, family member, mentor or other adult who has rental history and credit).
- 6. How is your credit?** Not sure? Look up your credit on annualcreditreport.com. Once you and your roommate start looking for a place to rent you will need to be sure that your credit report is accurate.
- 7. How important is cleanliness to you?** If it is high, then make sure you discuss this with the person you intend to room with. Sometimes roommates will agree up front to hire a regular cleaning service. At minimum you should have a written roommate agreement and work out a cleaning schedule (Sharing Spaces can give you a Roommate Agreement).
- 8. How much study time will you need at home? What time do you typically go to bed and wake up?**

ABOUT YOUR FUTURE ROOMMATE

9. We are excited to be an affiliate of Roommates.com. It is a great website to find a roommate, but everything you put on Roommates.com will be public. We recommend reaching out through messaging and chatting with potential roommates to get to know them. Be sure to verify a person's identity before meeting in person. Also, a roommate should never ask for your social security number or other sensitive information.

10. Here are a few ways that you can verify someone's identity:

- School ID: student's name and picture, school name and graduation year
- Verify identity with coach or teacher at school (if applicable); affiliation with sport or activity
 - Example: Contact your sports coach and ask him if the person that contacted you (and mentioned he is playing the same college sport as you) is on the team roster.

