

—The Roommate Contract—

Naked Clause I: Getting Along Clause

Naked Clause II: Reasonable Expectations Clause

Naked Clause III: The Uncomfortable Clause



Naked Clause I: Getting Along Clause

Roommates who want to get along will find a way to get along. Too many times, roommates judge or dislike each other before ever meeting. In order to make it clear that you want to get along, all roommates must agree to the following:

Roommate #1

I, _____, Do / Do not (circle one) want to get along.

Roommate #2

I, _____, Do / Do not (circle one) want to get along.

Roommate #3

I, _____, Do / Do not (circle one) want to get along.

Roommate #4

I, _____, Do / Do not (circle one) want to get along.

Naked Clause II: Reasonable Expectations Clause

One of the biggest obstacles roommates face is that one, both, or all roommates move into a room with the expectation that being a roommate = being a best friend. Being a roommate does not equal being a best friend. A roommate is responsible for paying a portion of the rent and making living on campus more affordable. That's it. A roommate is required to be nothing more than someone who shares space and respects the others and their things. Anything else is a bonus. All roommates must agree to the following:

Roommate #1

I, _____, give you permission to NOT be my best friend (although if that happens, I'll consider it an added bonus). My only expectation is for you to be someone who shares space with me and respects me and my stuff.

Roommate #2

I, _____, give you permission to NOT be my best friend (although if that happens, I'll consider it an added bonus). My only expectation is for you to be someone who shares space with me and respects me and my stuff.

Roommate #3

I, _____, give you permission to NOT be my best friend (although if that happens, I'll consider it an added bonus). My only expectation is for you to be someone who shares space with me and respects me and my stuff.

Roommate #4

I, _____, give you permission to NOT be my best friend (although if that happens, I'll consider it an added bonus). My only expectation is for you to be someone who shares space with me and respects me and my stuff.

Naked Clause III: The Uncomfortable Clause

Too many times, roommates keep their honest feelings a secret because they want to avoid conflict. They can't see that living together with a stranger (or friend) can naturally be uncomfortable. Again, no boyfriend/girlfriend or husband/wife or best friends who live together are ALWAYS happy. Therefore, all roommates must agree to the following:

If you do something that makes me uncomfortable, I must tell you within twenty-four to forty-eight hours or I will NOT be allowed to tell you. If I do something that makes you uncomfortable, you must tell me within twenty-four to forty-eight hours. If neither roommate expresses himself or herself within twenty-four to forty-eight hours, we are NOT allowed to talk to ANYONE about the problem. We all promise NOT to fight, but we will listen, respect each others' opinions, and try to get along (see Clause I and Clause II).

Uncomfortable issues can be, but are not limited to

- making too much noise
- having guests over
- sharing food
- expelling gas in the room
- having sex in the room (with someone or alone) with roommates present
- being messy (leaving stuff around)
- being dirty (leaving old food and dirty underwear around)
- having friends over
- getting up too early
- staying up too late
- partying in the room
- wearing your roommate's clothes
- borrowing your roommate's underwear
- using your roommate's stuff without asking first
- not respecting your roommate's stuff
- lounging in the nude
- your roommate's sexual orientation
- your roommate's race, religion, or ethnic background

Agreed: YES / NO (circle)

Roommate #1: Agreed _____

Roommate #2: Agreed _____

Roommate #3: Agreed _____

Roommate #4: Agreed _____

Bonus Clause: In Case of Emergency

Everyone needs to look after one another. Sometimes, being away from friends and family can lead to unforeseen situations. That's where the Bonus Clause comes in. The In Case of an Emergency Bonus Clause states:

I give permission to my roommate(s) to contact my parents via cell phone in case of an emergency. This is something you can do only if you think I'm in imminent danger or in case of an emergency.

Roommate #1

Agree to emergency clause: YES / NO

Emergency contact's name: _____

Emergency contact's cell phone: _____

Emergency email: _____

Roommate #2

Agree to emergency clause: YES / NO

Emergency contact's name: _____

Emergency contact's cell phone: _____

Emergency email: _____

Roommate #3

Agree to emergency clause: YES / NO

Emergency contact's name: _____

Emergency contact's cell phone: _____

Emergency email: _____

Roommate #4

Agree to emergency clause: YES / NO

Emergency contact's name: _____

Emergency contact's cell phone: _____

Emergency email: _____



Naked Journal #24: The Entry from Hell

We've all heard the expression "Roommate from hell." While we are all so focused on everyone else doing things wrong, rarely do we think that *we* could be the roommate from hell. Describe yourself and what personal characteristics or habits could possibly make you the roommate from hell. What can you do about these tendencies to avoid being the worst roommate in the world?