

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Tips to consider when living off campus

One aspect of moving off campus is living in a different type of environment than what you did when you lived in a residence hall on campus. You may have non-student neighbors and a lawn to mow. It's important to be a good neighbor when living off campus.

Living with Non-Student Neighbors

- Recognize that you are a part of diverse neighborhood, including other students, families with young children, working professionals, and older neighbors.
- Get to know your neighbors. Share your contact information with them so they can contact you first to resolve any issues or concerns (before they call law enforcement or the University) and so they can keep an eye on your place when you may be away for breaks.
- If you are living in a house, townhouse, or condo, work with your landlord to maintain your yard, mow your grass, shovel your sidewalks, and trim your shrubs/trees. Be aware of your pet's effects on others – clean up after them and train them well. Also, know the garbage and recycling schedule for your residence.
- Show the same amount of respect to your neighbors and the neighborhood that you expect them to show you the night before a major exam.
- Identify and establish boundaries in the neighborhood, including with noise, furniture, parking, and garbage removal.

Being Social

These tips for hosting social gatherings are not meant to be all-inclusive; always remember that when hosting a social gathering, you are assuming responsibility for any and all issues that may take place.

- **Discuss expectations with your roommates:**
 - Date
 - Timeframe
 - House rules
 - How many people
 - Who will be the sober host
 - Who will chat with the neighbors
- **Designate a sober host** to monitor and control the social gathering.
 - Access to the gathering
 - Outside noise and parking issues
 - Music volume
 - Theft of your items and others (make sure your laptop doesn't walk away)

- **Notify your neighbors in advance** and share the phone number of the sober host so they can call you if there are issues. If they call you, listen to and act upon their concerns.
- **Don't post on social media.** Once your gathering is shared on social media, you lose control over who will attend. Remember, every tweet or post can be shared with others, including people you don't know.
- **Do not provide alcohol to minors.** Providing alcohol to minors between the ages of 18 to 21 is a misdemeanor, with penalties including up to 18 months in prison and \$5000 fine. Providing alcohol to minors under 18 is a felony, with up to six years in prison and a \$500,000 fine.
 - Also, remember social host laws hold host(s) civilly liable for any injuries or damages that occur as a result of an intoxicated person under the age of 21, where it is proven that the host(s) knowingly provided alcoholic beverages to the person OR knowingly provided the intoxicated person under the age of 21 a place to consume alcoholic beverages.
- **Keep the gathering size reasonable** so your gathering stays in line with the capacity of your residence and to avoid disturbing your neighbors.
 - Have a guest list! Remember that unwanted guests do not know you or care if you receive a ticket.
- **Ask for help.** If your gathering gets too big and people will not leave despite your requests, call the non-emergency number (Denver: 720.913.2000; Adams County: 303-288-1535) and ask for assistance in breaking up your gathering before things get much worse.
- **Clean up after the gathering** the next morning. Pick up all trash resulting from the gathering (in your yard and in your neighbors') and follow-up with your neighbors. A follow-up conversation with your neighbors goes a long way to show that you are respecting them and the neighborhood.

Consider Your Own Safety

- Do not leave valuables unattended or doors unlocked. Keep your valuables out of site if you must leave them, particularly on the first floor
- Lock all first-floor windows, fire escape windows, and security screens. Criminals learn the patterns of University breaks and target locations they believe are occupied by students on break.
- Leave an outside light on at night or request installation of a motion-sensor light.
- Make sure your locks are in good working order. Use window alarms and light timers to help deter crime, particularly during University breaks in neighborhoods near Regis.
- When returning home from a night out, always walk with friends and use well-lit paths. To be extra cautious, consider calling a taxi, Uber, or Lyft.