

MAKING

THE MOST OF

SPACE

A look into
making a
home at
college

Making your dorm feel like home is one of the most overlooked aspects while thinking about college. Your dorm or apartment is where you will live for a whole semester, year or your entire duration at Texas A&M. Even if you are only in your dorm to sleep, it is still your space. Setting up your room in a cute and functional way will ease the stress of moving in the fall!

Know your hall style: When rooming in a dorm, you need to know what hall style you have. There are six dorm styles at A&M: ramp, balcony, corridor, Commons, modular and Hullabaloo. In addition, there are on-campus apartments available like White Creek. The difference between these would largely be the layout. A more detailed breakthrough can be found on the A&M Residence Life website. If possible, take a dorm tour before selecting your hall.

Get to know your roommate before the first day: Talking to my roommate was the first step in planning out what we wanted our room to look like. Luckily, my roommate and I have known each other for years, so this was not an issue for us. There are lots of students who do not exchange contact information with their roommates until they meet in person. Even though that can work for some, it may be more beneficial to have a conversation beforehand.

Have a floor plan: My roommate and I have a modular style room on Northside. We put our beds across from each other and placed our desks on the other side of the room. This was a layout that worked for us so we each had our own sides. We share our bathroom, microwave and mini fridge. Our bathroom is conveniently located within our dorm room, and since it follows a modular style, only the two of us share it.

Every dorm style is different, and though this layout worked great for us, it may not fit logistically for different sized rooms or for different roommate pairs. Talk to your roommate and figure out what you want to do before you move in so you do not have to move the furniture around after already setting

everything up.

Agree on a theme and decoration: My roommate and I agreed on a sage green theme for our dorm. We both placed vines and fairy lights up for a homey vibe. We have several pictures up in our room from our favorite moments. Our desk has objects and collages that remind us of home, which we find to be comforting. Our bedding is beige and green to match the room, and we have a large rectangular white and green carpet with ample space.

Pinterest was a great tool in helping us get ideas for how we wanted to decorate. Every roommate pair is different, so figuring out what aesthetic you both want can help plan what you need to buy.

Communal essentials: Since you will be sharing a space all semester, there are certain items you and your roommate will have to share. Here are a few essentials: a fridge and microwave, which can be rented directly from A&M, small trash cans and bags, bathroom supplies like a toilet plunger, and a water filter.

Essentials for yourself: It is important for you to have your own space, too. Apart from the obvious necessities like a mattress topper and laundry detergent, there are a few things that students find they need throughout the year. They include a desk lamp, small desk mirror and an extension cord. Lofting the bed helps store extra things below, which is great for smaller sized rooms, and leaves space for other room additions like a "living room." Buying storage bins can be extremely helpful in storing extra items and clothes.

The most important thing to remember when stepping on campus for the first time as a freshman is to organize your room in a way that you love. A dorm or apartment may feel temporary, but soon enough, College Station will begin to feel like your home away from home.



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