

THE OC LINK

OFF CAMPUS LIVING NEWS FOR FANSHAWE COLLEGE STUDENTS
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How to Avoid Roommate Discrepancies

By Myah

It is not surprising that conflicts can arise when living with roommates for the first time, especially with the added stress of school responsibilities. In order to limit issues and conflicts with your roommates, here are some helpful tips!

When signing a lease with a new group, it is always important to have a clear conversation about each other's lifestyles and preferences. For example, how late does everyone stay up? How warm/cold does everyone like the house? How often should cleaning be done? These are things you might not always think about when you are excited to sign a new lease with a group of friends. We recommend that you draft a roommate agreement between you and your housemates to keep everyone on track throughout the year. You can find agreements such as this on our Off-Campus Housing website here:

<https://www.fanshawec.ca/roommate>.

It is also a good idea to discuss how your group will handle conflicts if they arise. Monthly or bi-weekly roommate meetings could be a good way to create a comfortable environment for anyone to share their concerns and to discuss how to correct them moving forward. Make sure to bring any issues to light as soon as possible, instead of letting them build up over a long period of time. This will prevent a small issue from becoming something larger and harder to solve. It is always best to attempt to resolve any conflicts amongst you and your housemates. Finally should any of your concerns get out of hand or you feel like you need extra guidance, Housing Mediation offers free roommate mediation services for Fanshawe students!

Home Safety – Winter Break

By Greeshma

As students wrap up their December exam period and leave for the winter break, many student rentals are susceptible to break-ins as their student homes are left vacant. Here are some tips to hopefully keep your space safe over the break:

- Lock your doors and windows! While this may be obvious, it's the first thing a potential thief would check.
- Use timers to turn on lights in the house at random times to make it look like someone is home. This makes it seem like someone is home and you can find timers for under \$20 online!
- Ensure any curtains or blinds are drawn so people can not peer through windows.
- Make sure packages or mail are not left out and be especially careful to check nothing is left sticking out of the letter box for days on end. You could have your mail redirected or have a friend pick it up during the break. When mail piles up, it's an indication of an empty house.
- Arrange for someone to shovel the snow shortly after it falls. It is also a good idea because this creates footprints in the snow leading to your house, to make it seem like someone has been in and out recently!
- Ensure your social media is not showcasing information that reveals that you are out of town, especially if you have a public profile.
- In the case of potential theft, keep your valuables safe by taking them with you or locking them in a safe place.

For more home safety tips visit www.londonpolice.ca under the “Home Safety” tab under crime prevention. Stay safe this winter break and happy holidays!

London Heat Bylaw Requirements

By Avery

With the winter season approaching, it is important to become familiar with London's Heat Bylaw requirements. If your house is too cold, then you as a tenant have the right indicate this to your landlord as certain temperatures must be maintained. This municipal bylaw demands heating to be upheld at a minimum of 20°C (68°F) between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m., and 18°C (65°F) between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. These regulations are in effect from September 15th to June 15th of the following year.

You might be wondering, what if your landlord doesn't comply to your request? You, as the tenant, can contact City of London Property Standards. City Property Standards can be contacted at: 519-661-4660.

Tips for Fire Safety

By Greeshma

As winter is coming and we pile on the blankets, here are some tips to ensure you are safely using your fireplace and heaters:

- Maintain a distance of at least 3 feet (1 meter) on all sides in between the fireplace or heater and anything that can burn.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Remember to turn off portable heaters when you leave the room or if you are sleeping.
- If you're using a fireplace, ensure you have a fire extinguisher nearby and that there is a screen of glass to enclose the fire to prevent sparks from flying out.
- If you're using a heater, ensure that it has a thermostat, overheat protection and an auto shut-off in case it falls over.

COVID-19 Assessment Centres

If you feel you may be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or meet any of the requirements for needing a COVID-19 test, please visit one of London's local test centres, get tested and then immediately self-isolate while you wait for the results.

Fanshawe College students can schedule a COVID-19 test on campus. Visit the Health Services website for more information: <https://www.fanshawec.ca/health-services>

Assessment Centres in London

Click here for current information about London's COVID-19 Assessment Centres: <https://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-concerns>

Reporting a COVID-19 Order Violation

If you have concerns about COVID-19 order violations in the City of London, please email the City at COVIDOrderConcerns@london.ca (email monitored 24/7) or call 519-661-4660 (phone line monitored Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

If you have questions about COVID-19, please contact the Middlesex-London Health Unit.

COVID-19 Hot Line: 519-663-5317 and press "1"

(Monday to Sunday from 8:30AM to 7:00PM)

Email: covid@mlhu.on.ca

Fanshawe College Housing Mediation Service-Counselling and Accessibility Services

Office: Room F2010

Phone: 519-452-4282

Email: housing.mediation@fanshawec.ca

Website: www.fanshawec.ca/housing

OR

Monday to Friday: 519-661-3787