

Individual Rooms

How to make a room a home.

By Mo Mozingo '02 – Art and Jen Gannon – Business Administration '03 (would like a picture of these guys to put in site (please))

“The first thing you can do to make your dorm room into a home is to make friends with your suitemates and especially your roommate. By making friends with your suitemates and roommate the living atmosphere will become less isolated and more communal. It is very important to get along with your roommate, because the room belongs to both of you. The relationship that you and your roommate develop will be the making or the breaking of the foundation of your college home. Once the two of you have developed a relationship you can arrange the room to be your home the way you want it, instead of the room being just a place to sleep.

The next step to making your room into your home is to decorate it. Your room not only needs to make you feel comfortable, but also your roommate and others need to feel comfortable as well. The best way to decorate your room is to express yourself, let your room be a reflection of you and your personality. Fill your room with pictures and other things that make you feel comfortable and make you want to live there. Another idea would be to decorate your door, so people will stop and look...your door can be a great conversation starter.

Just a couple of other things that help to transform a dorm room into a home, the first thing is to keep the room clean. If your room is nasty more than likely you will not want to be in there, and if you don't want to be there others will not want to be there. The other thing is to maintain an open door policy. If you leave your door open while you are in your room, the room will seem more inviting for others to stop in and say, “Hey!” At the same time by keeping the door open when you are not doing anything important it allows you to keep from isolating yourself from the rest of the world. Living in the hall and being happy depends a lot upon how open you are to others.” ~~~ Best of Luck

Jen & **Mo**

Each room is either assigned as a double room or as a single room. Double rooms have in it two beds, two desks, two chairs, a built in dresser unit with four drawers and two built in closets. Single rooms have only one bed, one desk and one chair. All furniture must stay in the room. Those students living in Orange Hall have the opportunity (as they have seniority at St. Andrews) to bring their own furniture from home, should they so choose.

A. Checklist of items to bring from home

Each room is limited in space, but how you use that space (within the safety regulations) is where your creative genius comes into play. Work with your roommate to maximize the space you have and enjoy each other without having clutter and stuff infringe upon you. **The Checklist (link to checklist)** can provide you with a starting point to talk with your new roommate about what to bring, items to share and items that are for you use only. This is a perfect opportunity to start a dialogue with your new roommate.

D. Items NOT to bring from home

Regretfully due to the communal nature of the halls there are some items that for health reasons, fire safety reasons and noise reasons that are not allowed. When you have between 60 and 100 people living in a small space together certain things have to be structured.

Because it is such a small community there are certain guidelines and rules set about to ensure that no one individual infringes upon another resident. Our community rules are grouped together in a book called The Saltire and include our Community Honor Code and the Conditions for Continued Membership. Additionally, the rules are there to ensure that residents can live in a safe environment.

Communal living restricts the amount of power available to each room. Therefore certain appliances are not allowed because they "pull" so much power and can cause power surges, outages and potentially a fire. To avoid these problems the following items are not allowed as they cause a problem when grouped "en masse" - prohibited electrical items Sorry, no pets Fido the Great Dane, Tasha the Turtle, Goldie the Goldfish and Squiggly the Leopard-Spotted Gecko will need to stay home.

B. Protect the items you bring – renter's insurance

Alas, no community is complete free of the neither criminal element nor can we predict when a hurricane or a power surge may hit. To protect your possessions from theft and damages you need to take certain steps to – well, protect them.

Make certain that all items are insured through your parents' homeowner's insurance. If your dorm room is not covered by the home-owners policy, inexpensive renter's insurance can be purchased through most insurance agents.

The Office of Public Safety and Campus Police can offer more options for keeping you and your possessions safe.