



## RU A GOOD NEIGHBOR?

### WHO ARE WE?



We are Off-Campus Living & Community Initiatives. Our goal is to help students understand what their rights are as tenants and responsibilities are as community members. We assist students with their housing search, including education focused on legal issues, safety, security and respect. We work with students, parents, property owners, residents, local businesses, Chaplains, and city officials to establish priorities and create student programming that is reflective of community interests and concerns.

Be well,  
Dean Willson, Caryn, Sgt. Correa, and Officer Lugo

## SPRING BREAK SAFETY TIPS:

### ENJOY THE BREAK & GET HOME SAFELY



**Spring Break is almost here! Whether you're traveling, staying local, or relaxing at home, a little planning can help you have a fun, safe, and stress-free week. Here are some smart safety tips to keep in mind before you kick off your break:**



#### 1. Share Your Plans

- Let a friend or family member know where you'll be, how long you'll be gone, and how they can reach you. Even small details—like your travel route or hotel address—can help in an emergency.

#### 2. Keep Your Phone Charged

- Bring a portable charger and make sure your location services are on when traveling with friends. Stick together and look out for each other.

#### 3. Travel Smart

- If you're driving, check your gas, tires, and engine before heading out. Avoid driving late at night if you're tired, and switch drivers when needed. For flights and buses, keep your bags zipped and stay aware of your surroundings. Do not let strangers watch or carry your bags.

#### **4. Use the Buddy System**

- Always stay with people you trust. Make a plan for how to regroup if you get separated.

#### **5. Stay Hydrated & Pace Yourself**

- Drink water throughout the day and listen to your body. Take breaks, rest, and know your limits.

#### **6. Protect Yourself Outdoors**

- If you're heading somewhere warm, pack sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses. Nothing ruins a break like sunburn or heat exhaustion.

#### **7. Keep Your Belongings Secure**

- Use a small crossbody bag, fanny pack, or zippered backpack when exploring. Avoid carrying all your cash or cards in one place.

#### **8. Stay Aware at Night**

- Stick to well lit areas, avoid walking alone, and use ride share apps safely by checking the driver's license plate and name before getting in.

#### **9. Know Local Emergency Resources**

- If you're traveling internationally or to a new city, save emergency numbers and nearby hospital locations in your phone before you go.

#### **10. Prep Your Off-Campus Apartment Before You Leave**

- Cleaning up, locking up, and unplugging appliances adds an extra layer of safety and peace of mind.

**Have fun, stay smart, and make the most of your Spring Break!**



**You deserve the rest—just make sure you return refreshed and safe.**

# SPRING CLEAN-UP REMINDER:

## LET'S KEEP OUR COMMUNITY LOOKING ITS BEST

It's been a long winter, and now that the snow is finally starting to melt, we're seeing the aftermath—**piles of trash that were hidden beneath the snow**. This is a growing concern across our neighborhoods and on campus.

We want to remind everyone that snowbanks are not dumpsters. When trash is tossed into the snow, it doesn't disappear—it reappears in the spring across lawns, sidewalks, and community spaces.

Our office collected **an entire bag of litter** from our own front lawn. While we're always happy to do our part, this shouldn't be the norm.

**As we transition into spring, let's all recommit to keeping our shared community clean:**

- Dispose of trash properly
- Keep your property and curb areas tidy
- Be mindful of how your actions affect your neighbors
- Encourage your roommates and friends to do the same



**A cleaner community benefits all of us.**

- **Thank you for helping keep our neighborhoods welcoming, respectful, and beautiful!**



# CHOOSING THE RIGHT ROOMMATE FOR YOUR OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT

**Are you preparing to live off-campus next year?** Choosing the right roommate can make all the difference in your day-to-day experience. Whether you're living with close friends or pairing up with someone new, taking time to make a thoughtful choice can help you build a comfortable, respectful, and stress free home.

## Ask the right questions



You need to be clear about what you need in a living space to make sure that you are compatible. A quick "we get along well" isn't enough to guarantee roommate compatibility.

### Before agreeing to live together, talk about:

- Cleanliness habits
- Study and sleep routines
- Guests and social life
- Lifestyle choices (smoking, drinking, pets, work schedules)
- Budget and financial reliability
- Willingness to split shared items
- How each of you handle conflict and stress

Open, honest conversations now can prevent misunderstanding down the road

## Keep an eye out for Red Flags



Take note if they avoid conversations about finances, have difficulty communicating, are vague about their habits and schedules or share negative roommate stories without any accountability. Trust your instincts if something feels off. It is better to find a good match than to rush into a lease.

## Put your expectations in writing



Once you choose a roommate, create a simple roommate agreement that covers chores, shared items, guests, quiet hours, bill payments and your method of conflict resolution. This helps prevent misunderstandings later. A little structure goes a long way.

Remember: you don't need your roommate to be your best friend. You're looking for someone who is **respectful, responsible, and compatible** with your lifestyle. Shared values and clear communication are far more important than having everything in common.

# Sample Roommate Agreement Below!

Feel free to use this roommate agreement for your own use.

## R OOMMATE AGREEMENT

A guide to successful living!

### CONTACT DETAILS

Names of Roommates:

Preferred Method of Communication:

Address:

Contact information based on Preferred method:

Check- in frequency:

Weekly

Bi-weekly

As needed

### GENERAL RULES

Quiet Hours:

Shared Items Policy:

Rotate Buying

Split cost

Cleaning Schedule:

Food sharing policy:

Share

Ask first

No sharing

Guests Allowed?:

Yes

No

Borrowing Items:

Ask first

No borrowing

Conflict Resolution Method:

Group Discussion

Mediation

Privacy Expectations:

Rent split:

Utilities split:

SIGNITURES BELOW :

# FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

## RECIPE CORNER



Spring break is almost here! Fuel yourself with something fresh and feel good. This healthy veggie wrap is perfect when you want something light but satisfying.

## VEGGIE WRAP WITH HUMMUS

### Ingredients:

- Whole wheat tortilla
- Hummus
- Spinach leaves
- English Cucumber
- Roasted Red Peppers
- Avocado
- Red Onion
- Crumble Feta Cheese
- Black Pepper



### Instructions:

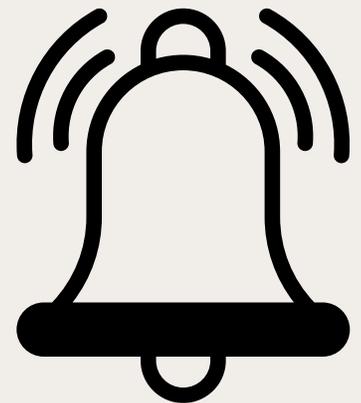
1. Slice cucumber, red peppers, avocado and red onion.
2. Spread about 3 tablespoons of hummus over your tortilla, leaving about a 1 inch border all around the edge.
3. Place the fillings (spinach, cucumber, roasted red peppers, avocado and red onion) down the tortilla in a line slightly off-center for easier wrapping. Sprinkle some feta and black pepper, to taste.
4. Tightly wrap your tortilla, burrito style.

# STAY CONNECTED – REGISTER YOUR OFF-CAMPUS ADDRESS

If you're a student renting in the local community, please take a moment to register your **local address** and **emergency contact information** with our office.



This helps us keep you **informed about important municipal updates, programming, emergency alerts**, and other useful information related to living off-campus.



**Visit** →

<https://go.rutgers.edu/offcampusreg>

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## LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO LIVE OFF CAMPUS?

**WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED! THE OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING FAIR IS YOUR CHANCE TO EXPLORE ALL YOUR HOUSING OPTIONS IN ONE CONVENIENT EVENT.**

**Meet face-to-face with landlords and property managers** and connect with campus and community resources that support off-campus living. Whether you're wondering about safety, need help understanding a lease, or just **want to see what's out there**—this is the place to get answers.

- Learn about available properties
- Ask your off-campus living questions
- Get guidance on safety, leases, and more



**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2026

**Time:** 1pm until 4pm

**Location:** College Avenue Student Center Main Lounge

**Don't miss this opportunity to make confident, informed decisions!**

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**STUDENT BASIC NEEDS/RUTGERS  
FOOD PANTRY—ALL STUDENTS**

At some point in a college student's education journey, they may face challenges in accessing adequate amounts of food, housing, financial or other resources.

To ensure that basic needs are met for all Rutgers students, on-campus resources and those available in the surrounding community are listed throughout the <http://basicneeds.rutgers.edu/> website including:

- Food Assistance
- Housing Assistance
- Emergency Aid
- Mental, Physical, & Spiritual Wellness
- Utility Assistance
- Internet & Technology
- Child Care Resources
- Faculty & Staff Resources

**Website:** <http://basicneeds.rutgers.edu/> website

**Instagram:** @RUBasicNeeds

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/RUbasicneeds>

