Top tips for getting along when living off campus in New Brunswick

THE GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDE
COMMUNITY SPIRIT
Be a Good Neighbor

Living in a neighborhood is very different than living in a residence hall. You are sharing a community with all kinds of people: young professionals, retired couples, and families with children. Here’s one thing you and your neighbors have in common: everyone deserves a peaceful home. With a little effort, you can earn your neighbors’ respect—and their goodwill.

- Say hello. Whether you go for a friendly wave or a formal introduction, take the first step toward a good relationship with your neighbor.
- Exchange contact info. A simple phone call can often avert or resolve problems between neighbors.
- Be invested. Take an active interest in your neighborhood. It’s your home and community, too.
- Be considerate. Messy yards, loud music, and late-night noise are disturbing to others. Remember that respect works both ways.

PERSONAL SAFETY
Play It Safe

“I only left it for a minute” is a common claim among victims of theft. After all, as any police officer can tell you, it only takes a few seconds for a thief to swipe your stuff. Why make it easy? A few simple steps can protect you from burglary—or something more serious.

- Do not leave valuables unattended or doors unlocked.
- Lock all first-floor windows, fire escape windows, and security screens.
- Make sure your locks are in good working order. Use window alarms and light timers to help deter crime.
- Do not take in overnight guests whom you don’t know.
- Make sure your locks are in good working order. Use window alarms and light timers to help deter crime.
- Limit alcohol consumption so you can stay alert. Persons under the influence are much more likely to be the victims of a serious crime.
- When returning home from a night out, always walk with friends and use well-lit paths. To be extra cautious, call a taxi or take a Rutgers campus bus or Knight Mover Shuttle.
- Sign up for Nixle alerts from the Rutgers University and New Brunswick police departments.

PARTIES AND NOISE
Shhh, Keep It Down

Want to hear your neighbor’s lawn mower at 7 a.m.? They feel the same way about your noise at 3 a.m. Understand that your neighbors have different schedules than you do.

- Tell your neighbors in advance of any parties you plan to host. Agree to an end time and stick to it.
- Consuming alcohol under age 21 is illegal. Hosts are responsible for their guests being of age.
- Local ordinances against loud music and noise are enforceable 24 hours a day and carry fines up to $1,250.
- Move speakers away from walls and turn down the bass.
- If an unwanted guest arrives, or your party gets out of control, call the police immediately. Do not take matters into your own hands.
- Possessing open containers of alcohol in public is illegal and carries fines up to $400.
- Never accept a drink from someone you do not know or leave your drink unattended.
- Make sure your guests are quiet and orderly inside and outside. As the host, you are responsible for their behavior.
- Do not let guests drink and drive. Call a taxi or the Knight Mover Shuttle.
Fires can ignite quickly and without warning. Remember these fire safety tips to save valuable time for you and your housemates in an emergency.

- When an alarm sounds, immediately evacuate the building. Do not assume it is a false alarm.
- Have an escape plan and practice. Always know two ways out.
- Never disable a smoke alarm or sprinkler system, or hang any items on them.
- Make sure candles are in sturdy holders, and never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Ashtrays should be deep, wide, and sturdy. Sit ashtrays on something solid and hard to ignite.
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.
- Don’t overload outlets.
- Fire extinguishers and smoke alarms are required in all rental units.

A row of neat and tidy homes is more than eye candy; well-maintained neighborhoods are less likely to attract crime. Check your lease to see who is responsible for taking out the trash and recyclables and doing chores like lawn mowing, snow shoveling, and leaf raking. It could be you.

- Know the garbage and recycling schedule for your residence found on the free “My Waste” app.
- Household trash and recyclables must be placed curbside after 5 p.m. on the evening before the scheduled collection day. No more than three trash containers will be accepted.
- Recycling is mandatory! Place recycling in its designated container. You can put bottles, cans, and mixed paper in the same container for pickup. Recycling placed in bags will not be collected.
- You are required to keep your property free of garbage and debris.
- Sidewalks must be kept clear of ice and snow. You may be looking at a $100 fine if you shirk the shoveling.
- Participate in Project Move Out when giving up your apartment. Your bulk items (such as small appliances and furniture) will be picked up for free.
There’s more to owning a pet than shaking paws and playing fetch. Pets can bring equal parts happiness and stress. A pet is totally dependent on you—physically, socially, and financially—for its well-being. Make sure that you are ready for the responsibilities that come with pet ownership.

- Discuss the responsibilities with your roommates and agree on a division of labor before you bring a pet home.
- Check your lease for pet restrictions.
- Pets must be registered with the New Brunswick Division of Animal Control. Having a license may also help you retrieve your pet if it is lost.
- Be aware of city ordinances—and the $50 fines for violations—that require you to clean up after your pet, keep your pet leashed or confined, and keep your dog from barking excessively.
- Make a plan for the long-term care of your pet after you no longer live at your current residence.

Parking in New Brunswick can be a challenge. If you have a driveway—lucky you! If you don’t, make sure you know the street parking regulations for your neighborhood. The city can tow a car parked illegally or boot a car for unpaid fines.

- Renters within a residential-permit parking district in New Brunswick are required to have a tenant permit for street parking.
- A maximum of two tenant permits per dwelling unit will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Be aware of alternate-side-of-the-street parking regulations, snow-removal emergency routes, and other local parking laws.
- Always lock your car doors and remove all valuables—especially electronic devices like your GPS—from view.
- Consider public transportation. The New BrunsQuick Shuttles have routes throughout the neighborhoods adjacent to College Avenue.
Useful Contacts

In the event of an emergency, dial 9-1-1

Rutgers University Police (Nonemergencies)  
732-932-7211 ▷ rupd.rutgers.edu

New Brunswick Police (Nonemergencies)  
732-745-5200 ▷ thecityofnewbrunswick.org/police

New BrunsQuick Shuttle Service  
▷ rudots.rutgers.edu/campusbuses.shtml

New Brunswick Division of Animal Control  
732-745-5200 ▷ thecityofnewbrunswick.org/cats-dogs

New Brunswick Garbage and Recycling Schedules  
732-745-5105 ▷ thecityofnewbrunswick.org/public-works/trash-and-recycling-info
Get the "My Waste" App (Available through Google Play Store/iTunes App Store)

New Brunswick Housing Inspections  
732-745-5075 ▷ thecityofnewbrunswick.org/fire/housing-inspection

New Brunswick Parking Authority  
732-545-3118 ▷ njbpa.org

New Brunswick Rent Control  
732-745-5050  
▷ thecityofnewbrunswick.org/planninganddevelopment/rent-control-1

Nixle Alerts  
▷ Rutgers Police: local.nixle.com/rutgers-police-department  
▷ City of New Brunswick: local.nixle.com/new-brunswick-police-department

Project Move Out  
▷ ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/moving-in-moving-out

Rutgers Knight Mover Shuttle Service  
732-932-RISE (7433) ▷ rudots.rutgers.edu/campusbuses.shtml

Rutgers Off-Campus Living and Community Partnerships  
848-932-5500 ▷ ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu

Rutgers Student Legal Services  
848-932-4LAW (4529) ▷ rusls.rutgers.edu

Share a Concern: Do Something to Help  
▷ health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help

Student Voter Registration Information  
▷ yppp.rutgers.edu/ru-voting/ru-registered
Local Ordinances & Fines

Think twice before ignoring the rules. Violations of local ordinances can carry steep fines and may even require a court appearance. Is it really worth the price?

- Noise violations: 1st offense, $300–$400; 2nd offense, $750; 3rd offense, $1,250
- Open container of alcohol: $200–$400
- Possession, consumption of alcohol under the legal age of 21: minimum fine, $500; and if in a motor vehicle, suspension of license
- Littering: 1st offense, $65; 2nd offense, $100; 3rd offense, $250; 4th offense, $500
- Urinating in public: $200–$300
- Pet violations: $50
- Failure to remove snow and ice from the sidewalk: $100
- Parking violations: alternate-side-of-the-street parking, $25; parking without a residential permit, $27