

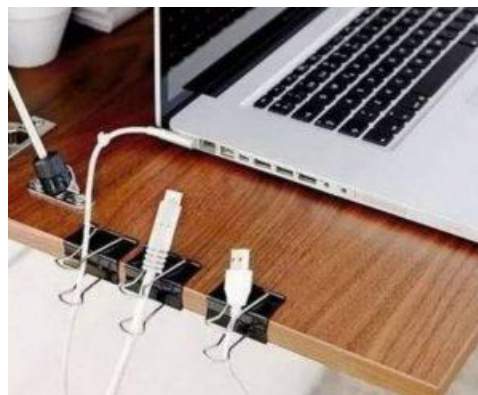
Creative Dorm Hacks!

Let's be honest, dorm rooms are not luxurious. Your bedroom, living room and kitchen are all now cramped into one small box. And no one likes the feel of that cold tile touching their feet early in the mornings. Dorm rooms cover the essentials but aren't necessarily the most inspiring places. As luck would have it, I have researched some pretty cool dorm room hacks that can help transform your place without breaking any of those pesky rules.

If your campus allows it, lift your bed for more storage. Most dorm room beds conveniently have the ability to be lifted higher than your bed at home. There is much more room for storage beneath so that you're not overcrowding the rest of the room. A few storage bins will slide perfectly under! You may also want to ask the college if they would allow you to loft your bed. This may require a significant investment, either by buying a lofted frame or constructing one but you will be able to fit a lot more in your room.



Organize chargers and cords with binder clips. Chargers have an annoying way of getting all tangled up or disappearing. Organizing them this way will stop you from scrounging around the floor and will leave your cords organized and accessible.



Use the binder clips to keep bottles in your mini fridge. They are small enough to begin with, so use the clips to keep them all neat in a corner.



Place clothes vertically. Dorms aren't known for their luxury closet spaces. So place your clothes in the drawer vertically so that it gives you more room. It can also be much easier to see what you have and no more tossing clothes around to try to find your favorite and lucky test-taking shirt.



Use soda tabs for more closet space. While we are on the topic, use this cool trick to fit more hangers in your closet. Take the tabs off of your soda cans and slide them over the tops of hangers. This creates a secondary hanger hook in the second hole in the tab.



Maximize the doors. By hanging a shoe organizer on your door, this solves another storage problem. Plus, you can also use this for toiletries, school supplies, snacks, etc.



Command your decorating. No I don't mean literally command your college to let you decorate. Most colleges have very strict rules regarding how pictures and other items can be hung on walls. It isn't uncommon for nails or thumbtacks to be banned. We are all about not breaking the rules, so use Command hooks and strips. You can use them to hang pictures, string lights, hold car keys, etc. without damaging the walls.



Wall decals. Wall decals cling to the wall without leaving residue behind. So think about decorating your dorm this way. Some decals aren't reusable so make sure you find some that are designed to be hung and removed multiple times if you want to update your décor seasonally.



Use dryer sheets or a car vent clip. We all know that air freshening methods such as candles and wax melts are a big no no in the dorms. Becoming a master hacker is all about finding new and creative ways to use what you have on hand. Clip dryer sheets or a car vent clip on your fans or A/C unit to fill your room with a nice refreshing smell without breaking dorm policy. The only reason this wouldn't work is if your college has a policy limiting the use of artificial fragrances or your roommate has an allergy. So make sure you check the rule book and speak with your roommate before adding a scent to the space.



Label cords with bread tabs. It's such a pain to try to not to unplug the wrong thing. Instead of tossing the bread tabs in the trash, keep a handful so that you can easily label cords plugged into a power strip.



Cool off with a frozen water bottle. I know that it is still winter but warm weather will creep up at some point this semester. If your A/C unit is not working you can cool off your stuffy room by placing a frozen water bottle in front of your fan and it will chill the air a bit.

Use wet paper towels to freeze things faster. Mini fridges aren't exactly the best at freezing things quickly. You can speed up the process a little by wrapping your water bottles in damp paper towels to chill them faster in the freezer.

Use a shower caddy to organize your desk. Prevent desk clutter by storing your desk supplies in a hanging shower caddy. This way your supplies are within reach but now you have room on your desk to study.



Use command strips to keep your trash bag in place. Making sure that the trash bag stays in place in your trash bin is one of the most annoying things on this planet. Command hooks will do the trick! Who knew?!



Keep a binder of take out menus. You could either Google take out menus constantly or you can make yourself a nice little binder and keep them all in one place.

Use a pool noodle to fill the gap between your bed and the wall. This used to always aggravate me in college. I would constantly lose things in the gap. But you all are much smarter than I was so if you have this problem, you can fill that gap with a pool noodle!



Get a bed caddy. This would be a perfect place to keep bedtime necessities like books, remotes, eyeglasses, and smartphones. It frees up valuable space on your desk or end table and keeps everything within arm's reach.



Use a picture frame as a dry-erase board. This is a super cute and neat way to make a dry erase to-do list. Get a cheap frame from a dollar store and put it on your desk so you will can keep track of all of your responsibilities.



Which brings me to my final hack for this month's blog. A while back, we compiled recipes from several sources with the hopes that it would help college students feel more comfortable cooking for

themselves. Most of the recipes are no cook or cook in the microwave, but we also included a few coffee pot recipes and crock pot ideas. There are also some tips about stocking your kitchen, shopping and planning meals. We hope you enjoy our Upward Bound Cook Book! You can find it here: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/8afa6e_7185c6e5f6e246d1baa252c98a1215ed.pdf

I found a lot of these ideas on websites such as thescholarshipssystem.com and thecollegejuice.com. There are tons of websites and ideas out there for you! If you have created a neat hack, send us a picture and we will share it with everyone! Create away friends!!