

DO'S AND DON'TS OF FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE



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DO

Realize that when you sign a lease or contract on or off campus, you have taken on financial responsibility, which you will be expected to fulfill.

Take your time when looking for housing. It's your money and you will be responsible for it.

Ask for everything in writing. Meet your roommates before you sign your lease.

Remember that any contract or lease you sign is legal and binding in court.

When you have a problem or concern regarding your apartment, talk to your landlord first.

Inspect your apartment before you move in or within two days for damages. Notify the landlord in writing (damage checklist).

Do care about where you live and report vandalism and mischief to the proper authorities.

DON'T

Sign a lease for an apartment downtown and a contract for housing on campus at the same time.

Assume anything, ask questions of your landlord, Off-Campus Living, and the Assignment Office.

Feel pressured to make a quick decision. Remember, once you sign you are financially responsible for the housing.

Assume that you can move into an apartment with complete strangers and you won't a difference of opinion. Assume the landlord will resolve roommate conflicts. It's not a requirement of the lease/contract.

Don't expect the landlord to remember your request for repairs if you don't write them down.

Assume the landlord will let you out of your lease because you changed your mind for any reason.

Fill out any application until you are certain it's the place you want.