

Common Questions to Ask about an Apartment

1. What's the term limit? Is it a year-long contract or month-to-month?
2. How do I pay rent? Can I pay by check or online?
3. Are pets allowed? How much is the pet deposit?
4. If renting with roommates, how many roommates does the landlord permit?
5. Is there central heating/air? Floor heaters?
6. What are the quiet hours?
7. What are the rules regarding trash and recycling?
8. Is the neighborhood safe?
9. How close is the nearest grocery store?
10. Is there enough space to store food for me and my roommates in the kitchen?
11. Is there enough space to cook?
12. Is there enough room to store extra stuff?
13. Is the apartment clean on the tour? It should be spotless. Is the apartment complex clean and well-kept?
14. Who do I call if something breaks within the apartment? How long does it take to get a response?

Seven Sins of First-Time Renters

1. Underestimating the Cost
2. Not Getting Your Priorities Straight
3. Not Seeing the Apartment Before Moving In
4. Failing to Read the Lease
5. Not Asking About Utilities – or Forgetting to Turn Them On
6. Going Without Renter's Insurance
7. Forgetting Basic Items to Make a Home