

## Things to Consider and Questions to Ask When Renting an Apartment / House

- Is the location an area you feel comfortable living in?
  - Check crime statistics
  - Visit the unit during the day and at night to see the difference in environment
  - Talk to current tenants if possible
  - Consider the floor that you will be living on
    - First floor
      - Pro: easier to move in and out
      - Cons: noise from the above units, Higher traffic on floor
    - Upper floors
      - Pros: Possible lower heating costs, May be safer
      - Cons: More difficult moving in and out
- Is the size of the unit adequate for your needs?
- Is there sufficient lighting?
- Is everything in good working condition?
  - Test the thermostat, all sinks and faucets, locks, phone jacks, and electrical outlets
- Is the unit in condition to live in?
  - HAVE ALL VERBAL AGREEMENTS PUT IN WRITING
  - Take photographs of condition of rooms when moving in so that they can be compared to conditions when moving out
  - Create a Checklist
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- Is off-street parking available?
  - How many spaces are allocated for your particular apartment?
- Do you feel comfortable renting from the landlord?
- When do I need Renter's Insurance?
  - Renter's insurance protects your personal belongings
  - Although your landlord may have insurance, this insurance usually only covers the physical structure of the building. It does not generally cover your personal belongings.
  - Renter's Insurance may protect you from accidents caused by other tenants