

Who Says You Can't Go Home?

Apartment Hunting Tips

Finding an ideal apartment just takes a little prep work. Here are some tips to help you search for that perfect place to call home:



- The internet and renter magazines are great resources for your search.
- But also tell your friends you are looking. Maybe someone lives in a great apartment community that would be right for you.
- Consider what you really want and don't want. Pool? Fitness center? What are your storage needs? Pets? What about location and public transportation or rush hour drive time?
- What about services? Is there 24 hour emergency maintenance? A professional staff on site?
- Approach this task as you would a job search. Make sure you stand out as an excellent applicant. You want to be at the head of the line for that "must have" apartment.
- Keep your credit in good standing. Get a copy of your credit report, correct any errors, and make sure what you say on the rental application is consistent with what the rental owner will see on the credit report.
- Know what you can afford. Criteria may differ from place to place. But a general rule of thumb is to budget one third of your net income for rent.
- Be clear on what utilities are included in the rent for any apartment you consider.
- When you visit an apartment, be prepared to leave a deposit and credit check fee.
- Take all the information you'll need to complete a rental application: prior addresses, bank account and credit card numbers, a list of references.

**With just a little planning,
you'll be home before you know it!**

