

The Apartment Search Process

WHO: How to pick a roommate

- Best Friends don't always make the best roommates!
- Talk before you sign! How does each potential roommate feel about sharing, guests, cleanliness, level of noise, borrowing, how you study, use of alcohol, morning vs. night person.
- How many people will be in the space and how big is the space?

WHAT: Types of Units

- Rooming House
- House
- Duplex
- Small apartment communities (8- 30 units)
- Large apartment communities
- You get what you pay for! Decide what you want and what you are willing to pay for. Are you willing to pay for a controlled access building? Video cameras on property? Off-Street parking? Pool tables? Hot tub?

WHEN: When is the best time to look?

- Any time is a fine time to look.
- The most popular time is mid-February through Mid-March.
- There will be apartments available all year – so don't panic.
- If you are looking for a specific type of unit at a specific property, Mid-February through Mid-March gives you the best chance at getting that unit.

WHERE: Where are apartments advertised?

- The best way – WALK AROUND!
- Minnesota Daily – the University newspaper. WWW.MNDAILY.COM.
- The Off Campus Housing Web Site: www.housing.umn.edu/offcampus/
- Other websites (www.collegehousingworld.com, www.mycollegehousing.com, www.chegg.com)
- The Off Campus Housing Fair

HOW: How much will it cost?

- Plan on some up-front costs which may include an application fee, and administrative fee, the security deposit, and first month's rent. Some communities will have one or two of these fees, some will have all.
- Bring a check book!
- Research first – call or go on line. Check to see what the fees will be. Estimate about \$40 for the application fee and \$100-\$500 for the deposit.

DON'T BE FOOLED!

Some communities will offer bonuses or discounts if you sign a lease within 24 hours. If you know this is the place for you, go for it! But don't hesitate to come back two or three times before you make your decision. Typically, students will visit, then have a second visit with roommates, and have a third visit with parents. This is OK! Make sure you see a real unit, not just a model, and that you ask to see your specific unit before signing a lease!

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