

continued from pg. 9

32. Is the apartment air-conditioned? Who controls and pays for it? When is it turned on?
33. Are appliances gas or electric? Are they in good condition? When were they last serviced?
34. Is the refrigerator clean and in good condition? Is there plenty of freezer space?
35. Is there ample water pressure in both the kitchen and bathroom?
36. Who pays for water? Do the faucets, traps, or toilets leak?
37. Is there a shower as well as a tub in the bathroom?
38. Are there any signs of water damage around water fixtures or on the ceiling?
39. What are your limits in decorating the apartment? Can you hang pictures without being penalized?
40. Are there draperies, rods, or blinds included?
41. Are there any stipulations regarding guests, parties, etc?
42. Is there ample room to study for all occupants of the apartment? Is there sufficient privacy?
43. Are there limits to the number of allowable occupants in the apartment?
44. What are the requirements for full refund of your security deposit?
45. Are pets or children allowed? If so, is there an additional charge?

Also, if possible, talk to other tenants that live there. Ask them if the landlord is fair and responsive. Make sure all agreements you reach with the landlord are in writing, make sure all damages/deficiencies are noted and get a copy of the lease signed by the landlord. In addition, check with the Better Business Bureau to see if they have any complaints on file against your prospective landlord or rental agency.

Home security tips

- Trim shrubbery around the house to increase visibility
- Clearly mark your address on the front curb
- Close and lock doors, windows, garages, and sheds
- Ask landlord if it is possible to install door peep holes
- Ask landlord if it is possible to install electronic security, fire, and emergency systems
- Keep home well-lit and curtains closed at night
- If you live alone, use initials rather than Ms., Miss, or Mrs. in directories and on personal checks
- Do not let anyone inside whom you do not know, or whom you haven't planned on visiting
- Have a lighting notification system to let neighbors know you're okay
- Notify police when you are planning on being out of town
- Don't leave notes on doors as to your whereabouts
- Do not leave a house key near entrances