



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE TO APARTMENT LIVING

TENANT EXPECTATIONS

- **Clean the apartment** and vacuum it at least once every two weeks.
- **Keep the stove clean.** Any food that spills on the stove while cooking must be cleaned immediately since it can dry out and stain the stove which makes it harder to clean later.
- Remember to throw your trash regularly.
- Any damage or repairs in the apartment must be brought to the attention of the landlord. They are always happy to help.
- **Keep the noise level to a reasonable volume** and be mindful of your neighbors.
- Most of all, take the opportunity to meet your neighbors! It is a great way to practice English and learn about American culture.

MOVING OUT EXPECTATIONS

- **Know the date your lease ends** and when your landlord expects you to move out. You will likely be charged additional rent and possibly fines if you stay longer than your lease allows.
- **Leave the apartment in the same condition it is when you first moved in.**
- Landlords might expect a “deep cleaning” when you move out. “Deep cleaning” means vacuuming the carpet or sweeping and mopping the floor, cleaning the inside of the refrigerator and oven, the tops and inside of cabinets, , dusting blinds and ceiling fans, washing the windows and mirrors, scrubbing the floors and baseboards, etc.
- **Take all your belongings with you** even if you don’t need them anymore. The apartment must be empty when you leave.
- Find the “Renter’s Inspection Checklist” from when you moved in. After cleaning, inspect the premises again and note any damages.

SECURITY DEPOSIT RETURN

- **Ask your landlord about how long it takes for the security deposit will be returned.** The time period depends on what is mentioned on the lease.
- If a landlord deducts any money from a security deposit for any reason, the landlord must provide the tenant with a written statement listing the exact reasons for keeping any portion of the security deposit.
- **If you are leaving the US permanently before or on the day your lease expires, please inform your landlord at least a month in advance so that they can make arrangements to ensure you receive your deposit in a timely manner.** If you don’t have an active US bank account, it becomes difficult for the landlord to return the money and prior arrangements need to be made.