



Cornell University

Important Tips - Read this First

Off-Campus Living Office
541 Willard Straight Hall
offcampusliving@cornell.edu
offcampusliving.cornell.edu



Who is the Off-Campus Living Office?

- ▶ Our mission is to provide housing assistance, education and referral services to students, staff, faculty and others associated with Cornell, choosing to live Off-Campus. We are committed to providing information and services that result in informed housing decisions.
- ▶ We are located in Willard Straight Hall
 - ▶ 607-255-2310
 - ▶ offcampusliving.cornell.edu
 - ▶ offcampusliving@cornell.edu
- ▶ All worksheets, checklist and reference materials referenced in this video can be found on the Off-Campus Living website.



Steps to finding your first apartment...

- ▶ Lets begin with finding the right neighborhood
 - ▶ When looking for an apartment it is important to understand what you want/need.
 - ▶ What items are important to you? Do you want to be near:
 - ▶ A bus/walking distance to college
 - ▶ Public schools/daycare (if you have children)
 - ▶ Community (Place of worship/Restaurants/Night Life/Food/Shopping)
 - ▶ Use the following to assist you
 - ▶ The Evaluate Your Time Limitations worksheet
 - ▶ The Housing Search Checklist
 - ▶ The Cornell/Ithaca Map
 - ▶ The Ithaca Neighborhood Descriptions video presentation
 - ▶ The Transportation video presentation



Steps to finding your first apartment... continued

- ▶ Once you have chosen the right neighborhood complete
 - ▶ The Evaluate Your Standards for Comfort worksheet
 - ▶ The Create Your Budget worksheet
 - ▶ Review the "Why Budget" video presentation
- ▶ Then when you know your budget begin your search using the Off-Campus Living Housing Search Tool
- ▶ Use the following checklists to assist you in your decision making.
 - ▶ The Security Checklist
 - ▶ The Apartment Selection Checklist



Now you found your apartment what do you need to know...

What is an American lease?

- ▶ A lease agreement is simply a contract between a landlord and a tenant that states what the tenant will pay monthly for rent and for how long to occupy a property.
- ▶ For more information on what is a lease and lease expectations review:
 - ▶ The “what is a lease agreement” video presentation
 - ▶ The New York State Attorney General’s Tenants Rights Guide



5 things every tenant needs to do

1. Pay rent on time and in the correct amount.
2. Notify the landlord/property manager/emergency contact immediately of any deficiencies within the apartment immediately.
3. Turn over the property in the same or better condition than received (and have proof by completing the Move-in/Move-out checklist & take pictures).
4. Abide by all the agreed on lease terms and conditions.
5. Vacate the property at the end of the lease.
 - ▶ When in doubt ask! Call or email offcampuslivng@cornell.edu if you have questions



Questions to ask before signing a lease agreement...

- ▶ Once you found an apartment you are interested in have your list of questions ready.
 - ▶ The questions should give you information you need to decide if you want to rent the apartment.
 - ▶ This is an opportunity to learn more about the landlord to see if this is someone you can work with once you sign a lease.
- ▶ For examples of questions review our signing the lease webpage on the offcampusliving.cornell.edu website.



What is renters insurance and why do I need it?

- ▶ Is protection against:
 - ▶ loss or damage to your personal property (i.e. in case of fire)
 - ▶ accidents on “your” property that injure other people (someone slips in your shower and gets hurt)
 - ▶ damage to other people’s property (i.e. Pretend you borrowed your friend’s sewing machine. It is sitting on a table near a window with a lovely view. A tree falls, crashes through the window and crushes the sewing machine. Now what?)
- ▶ For more information visit Renters Insurance information page on the offcampusliving.cornell.edu website.



Things to keep in mind

- ▶ Your Budget
- ▶ The Location between your apartment and the campus
- ▶ Transportation services
- ▶ Lease requirements (e.g., pet policy)
- ▶ Standards of comfort
- ▶ Proximity to amenities (e.g., shopping, laundry)
- ▶ When in doubt ask! Our office is here to help you...

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