

TOP 10 THINGS

YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE RENTING!

10. START EARLY- *Start your apartment search now so that you have time to see a wide variety of apartments; rent the best deal for you, not the quickest.*

9. USE THE APARTMENT HUNTING CHECKLIST- Visit www.offcampus.neu.edu and the “Get Started” link for helpful checklists; check out the other helpful resources as well to support your apartment search.

8. UNDERSTAND YOUR RIGHTS – Go to www.cityofboston.gov/rentalhousing to learn your rights and responsibilities as a tenant and avoid future problems!

7. FIND A REALTOR/LANDLORD/PROPERTY MANAGER YOU TRUST- *If you get a bad feeling or they have a reputation of poor performance, questionable practices or problems in the past, move on!!*

6. TALK TO CURRENT TENANTS- *No one knows more about an apartment than the current occupants. Ask about any problems, cost of utilities, the landlord or property manager, and the neighbors. Do your homework!*

5. MAKE SURE ALL TENANTS ARE ON THE LEASE – *If you’re not on the lease, you don’t have tenant rights; protect yourself!*

4. NO MORE THAN FOUR- *Boston Zoning Code prohibits more than 4 full-time undergrads living in one unit, regardless of its size.*

3. GET EVERYTHING IN WRITING– *Make sure any amendments or additions to the lease are made BEFORE signing, and get receipts for ANY money you pay to your landlord and realtor.*

2. ASK ABOUT THE NEIGHBORS - *Consider possible conflicts between your lifestyle and those of the neighborhood; BE CONSIDERATE of the families, professionals, and elders who could be your new neighbors.*

1. IS THE APARTMENT YOU ARE CHOOSING SAFE? - *The City of Boston requires that all units are inspected and meet the State Sanitary Code; check the status of your potential apartment at www.cityofboston.gov/ISD/housing/rental.asp*