

Apartment Guide Apartment Search Checklist

September 15, 2009 by [Steve Harper](#)

It can be tough finding a new place to live. After looking at dozens of apartments online and in person, they can all start to run together.

Find an Apartment!

Use this apartment search checklist to keep you organized and minimize stress during one of life's most important processes — finding a new place.

- Figure out what you want in a new apartment. List your apartment priorities including apartment size, features and amenities.
- Determine [how much you can afford to spend on rent](#).
- [Choose the area of town in which you would like to live](#).
- Create an apartment search folder where you can keep your budget, list of priorities and details or printouts of apartments you like.
- Search apartments online at [Apartment Guide](#). Check the availability of apartment communities in your budget and search area.
- Talk to property managers about what is available and what their [communities have to offer](#).
- Narrow your field of possible apartment communities to a few contenders and arrange to visit these properties if you can. (For details on conducting long-distance searches, read [How to Find an Apartment in Another State](#).)
- Gather the application materials you will need to apply for an apartment. These may include:
 - Your checkbook
 - Social Security Number/Card
 - Rental history information (list of locations and dates)
 - Personal and professional references
 - Pay stubs or bank statements to verify income
- Visit apartment communities to get a feel for which one you might want to live in. Items to take with you may include:
 - Your list of apartment priorities
 - Information on the property you are visiting
 - A list of questions to ask the property manager
 - Pen and paper to take notes
 - A digital camera to take pictures
 - A friend for a second opinion
- Compare apartments weighing the pros and cons of each.
- Choose the best apartment and submit an apartment application.
- When your application is accepted, read your lease carefully before signing it, making sure you understand all the regulations, deposits and fees.

Once your lease is signed, you can set your [move-in](#) date. For a guide to moving into your new apartment, check out the [Apartment Guide Moving Checklist](#).



1. Rhochell on [March 17, 2012 at 8:46 am](#) said:

The checklist is helpful. I am saving the article. It will help me a lot in my apartment search. Apartment hunting is like working on a job. Matter of fact, it is like doing a term paper in college.



o Heatheron [March 22, 2012 at 10:03 am](#) said:

I think it's worse than writing a term paper!! Lol But yes, It is A LOT of work!



2. Sharon on [July 5, 2012 at 11:38 am](#) said:

Taking into account all the information I have been reading on Apartment Guide Apartment Search, I have created a spreadsheet which shows the location, price of unit, size, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, garage or no garage, pool or none, fitness or none, also listing other amenities so that I can make a comparison. Then I can more easily determine which meet my criteria in the area I am looking for. This has helped me to narrow my search to only those I would be interested in.



3. Earl Ekdahl on [January 22, 2013 at 12:13 pm](#) said:

I have been "amused" by comments from agents seeking to explain away the lack of available garages available in their apartment developments. They say the great weather makes garages unnecessary. Obviously the vehicles must be impervious to hail damage, dust & dirt, vandalism and theft of property, damage from other vehicles being operated in a reckless or indiscriminate manner. They may be clever in their presentations, but are not Merlin.