Resources for Renters

City of Minneapolis Property Information
Research a prospective rental location by entering the address on the City of Minneapolis property information website.
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/propertyinfo/

City of Minneapolis Housing Inspections
Report a housing violation or file a report online.
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/inspections/
311 or 612-673-3000

Minnesota Student Association
Look at the MSA Renters Survey to find out what kind of experience other students had renting from other area landlords.
msa.umn.edu.

University Student Legal Services
Contact University Student Legal Services if you have any concerns, questions or problems with your rental experience.
www1.umn.edu/usls/
612-624-1001
usls@umn.edu

Searching for Housing

Here are some common resources students use to find rental housing. Keep in mind that none of these resources inspect or check the housing in any way. It’s up to you to research the property owner and the unit to be sure it meets your needs before you sign a lease!

Housing and Residential Life
Off-Campus Housing Listing Service
rentals.tc.umn.edu/

Minnesota Daily
student newspaper
www.mndaily.com/classifieds

Craigslist
minneapolis.craigslist.org/apa/

Star Tribune
newspaper
www.startribune.com/

Student Neighborhood Liaison Program
Student and Community Relations

Office for Student Affairs
109 Appleby Hall
128 Pleasant St SE
Minneapolis, MN  55455

612-625-8939
612-626-6214 (fax)
neighbor@umn.edu
www.scr.umn.edu

Join our student group, Student Neighborhood Organizers, at www.sua.umn.edu/groups/.

Find us on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com and search for Student Neighborhood Liaisons.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Direct requests to Student and Community Relations, neighbor@umn.edu, 612-625-8939.

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University of Minnesota
Driven to Discover™
When looking for a place:

1. Look carefully at the property, taking your time. Make sure that everything is functional and in working order. Does the plumbing leak, are the appliances in top working order, do the smoke detectors detect smoke, are there cracks in the ceilings or walls? Report Housing Violations by calling Minneapolis 311 or 612-673-3000.
2. Make sure that the ceiling is more than seven feet high and that the room is more than seven feet across.
3. Make sure all bedrooms have a door or window that leads outside.
4. Make sure there is a smoke detector within 15 feet of all bedrooms.
5. The name and address of the owner must be on the lease and their rental or lodging license must be posted. Ask if there is someone in charge of repairs or maintenance requests.
6. Check out the MSA Renters Survey to see how other students experienced renting from the landlord you are thinking about renting from.
7. Contact the city housing inspections office to see if there is a record of serious repair problems at the property, ask about the zoning occupancy limits. You can also find out if the landlord has had lawsuits levied against them in housing court.
8. Before signing a lease, take it home and read it carefully. If you sign a lease, be sure to get a signed copy for for everyone in the house or apartment.

While signing a lease look for:

1. Winter Sidewalk cleaning (who cleans snow from sidewalks and driveways-if tenant, are there shovels provided by the landlord?)
2. Summer Yard Care (who mows the lawn and does yard work-if tenant, are there lawnmowers and weed-whackers provided? can the tenant plant a garden?)
3. Rules and implications for hosting parties (can there be a keg? maximum occupancy of the house?)
4. Infestation (who needs to get rid of fleas/bedbugs/rats/mice, etc.?)
5. Locks (have they all been changed since the previous occupants?)
6. Noisy and unruly assembly (can you be kicked out of your home for getting a ticket for having too rowdy of a party?)

In order to ensure that you will get your security deposit back:

1. Take inventory of the property and condition of the property at the time you move in. This will help you avoid being charged for damages present when you moved in. Take pictures when moving in and out and get them developed immediately.
2. If something needs to be repaired, send your landlord a notice of need to repair for documentation purposes. Put the request in writing in addition to calling them until the repair is made. Phone calls are not considered legal documentation.
3. Let your landlord know that you will be vacating your residence and when you will move out before the notice period listed on your lease.
4. Make a deposit refund demand if your landlord fails to send your refund or a written explanation within 21 days after either the day you move out or when you provided a forwarding address (whichever is later).

Some helpful advice

Students are not the only residents in the neighborhood. There are many long time residents and homeowners, so get to know your neighbors. Student renters are often easy prey for criminals. Get to know all of your neighbors so that you and they know who is supposed to be there and who may be lurking for an easy crime to commit.

Remember!

There is a big difference between partying and being an annoyance. If you decide to have a party, we encourage you to do it in a manner that is responsible and respectful of the neighborhood and community at large.