

**Finally... Some last tips to enjoy your new home.**

Before you sign the lease:

Do a walk through with the leasing agent on your apartment.

Leases are usually small print, but they aren't trying to trick you. Everything is in black and white. Take your time to read it.

Once you are in and settled, don't forget to change your mailing address online at: [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

Use the amenities. So many residents never use them!

If something in your apartment needs to be repaired, call in a service request! A good apartment community wants you to love your home but they need to know when you are unhappy so they can fix it.

Enjoy the resident events. Apartment Communities want to make it feel like a community. They can't do that if you don't attend!

Always ask how much you get if you refer people to live there. This is a great way to make extra cash if you love where you live!

## Your FREE Guide to Seattle Apartment Homes



Don't trust the websites of angry residents that broke the rules and are mad at their apartment community and voice it on line. Whether it is via email, phone or in person, you can easily determine if it is a place you want to live by your interaction with the on-site leasing team and with the help of this guide.

The goal of this guide is to help you find the perfect place and maximize apartment living!

### Step One:

Determine your criteria. What are your apartment home must haves? Narrow down your search. It might be price, size or even location!

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Price Range    |           |
| Location       |           |
| Apartment Size | 1x 2x 3x  |
| Pool/Spa       | Yes or No |
| Carport/Garage | Yes or No |
| Pets Allowed   | Yes or No |
| Washer/Dryer   | Yes or No |
| Fitness Center | Yes or No |
| Misc.          |           |

### Step Two:

It's time to find apartment communities that meet your criteria. This can be done via an internet search, a rental publication, oven by asking your friends for their recommendations, or by visiting [www.amcapartments.com](http://www.amcapartments.com).

| Community Name | Phone Number |
|----------------|--------------|
|                |              |
|                |              |
|                |              |
|                |              |
|                |              |

### Step Three:

Prepare a list of questions to ask each community you call. A good leasing agent will have this information at his or her fingertips. This will help you determine whether or not the community, and leasing team, is right for you!

1. What school district is the community in?
2. Where is the closest bus line and/or freeway access point?
3. Where is the closest post office? Park? Grocery store?
4. Where are the self storage places in the area?
5. Is there a hospital nearby?
6. How far is the community from my job at \_\_\_\_\_?
7. Is my pet welcome?
8. What do I need to do to reserve my apartment home?
9. How long of a lease do I sign?
10. When can I move in?

### Step Four

Once you have your list narrowed down and your questions prepared, it's time to start interacting with apartment communities that meet your criteria via phone, email or in person. Ask about the things that are most important to you.

(Over)



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**NOTES**

**Step Five**

Gathering Data! Use the example below to create your own list of what is important to you in your apartment home search. Be detailed about what YOU want.

| Community Name | Price | W/D | Gym | Covered Parking | Customer Service Level | Additional Information | Lease Term |
|----------------|-------|-----|-----|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Brickstone     | \$800 | X   | X   | X               | Average                | \$99 Deposit           | 12 Months  |

| Community Name | Phone Number   | Price          |  |  |  |  | Special  |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| HighGrove      | (425) 353-8949 | \$1075-\$1895  |  |  |  |  | 2 Apartments - \$250 off the first months rent.  |
| Wildreed       | (425) 423-0555 | \$1167-\$1750  |  |  |  |  | 1 Apartment - Wave the Deposit OAC + Deducted Rent.  |
| Latitude       | (425) 903-4146 | \$1015-\$1249  |  |  |  |  | Admin Fee reduced to \$99, Immediate move in = \$50 Gift card + \$200 off 1st months rent. |
| Silver Reef    | (303) 985-4107 | \$985 - \$1530 |  |  |  |  | Up to \$250 look and lease specials.   |
|                |                |                |  |  |  |  |  |
|                |                |                |  |  |  |  |  |
|                |                |                |  |  |  |  |  |

Now that you have the data, you can evaluate the value of living at each community. Remember, your 1<sup>st</sup> impression of the community plays a huge part in how your experience is going to be. If you were able to visit in person, did they jump up and greet you? Was the community free of debris? If you contacted them via email, how long did it take for them to contact you back? Did they answer your questions? On the phone, did they sound enthusiastic and were they knowledgeable about the community?

When determining value, put a price on each item. For example: Gym on site: savings \$30 per month. Free Wi-Fi: savings \$25 per month. Once you have a value for each property you can determine, which is the most valuable to you and that is where you should live!

MY NEW ADDRESS:

  

MY NEW PHONE NUMBER:

