



August 18, 2010  
VPM: 55,819

## Are you ready to move off campus?

### SPLITTING UP THE DUTIES

When searching for an apartment with roommates, it's important that you share duties in some way that works for all parties.

#### **Assess the desired level of involvement that each party wants to have.**

Some people are control freaks and want to be involved in every step; others are happy to leave all the searching to someone else and just sign the lease.

#### **Think about what each roommate likes to do.**

Perhaps one really likes exploring neighborhoods or doing online research, while the other is a great negotiator and wants to deal with the landlord.



Moving off campus may be the biggest step toward independence that a student has taken up to this point in their life. Peggy Abkemeier, president of [Rent.com](http://Rent.com), has the cheat sheet.

Tips for living in your first apartment:

#### **Research the neighborhood**

Visit the neighborhoods you are considering to make sure that you would feel comfortable there. Ask neighbors if they enjoy the area and if they have any safety concerns.

#### **Consider renters insurance**

If a pipe bursts, your belongings might be destroyed in a matter of minutes. In order to protect yourself, purchase a renter's insurance plan. Renter's insurance is affordable on almost every budget, can cost just a few dollars per month and will provide you with ease of mind.

#### **Change the locks**

If it hasn't been done already, ask your landlord to change the locks before you sign your new lease. This will ensure that you are the only key holder to the unit.

### WHERE TO LIVE

#### **When choosing a neighborhood, think about the following key factors:**

**Your personal style:** Do you want easy access to parks or cafes and shops? Do you want to go where most other students go, or do you want a break from college life?

**Proximity to campus:** Think about your schedule and how much time you are willing to commit to commuting to school every day.

**Compare your budget to the average rental price in different neighborhoods:** Narrow down your search to areas with lots of inventory in your price range.