



## Have You Been a Naughty or Nice Neighbor This Year?

### Rent.com Offers Apartment Etiquette Tips to Make Sure You Don't Get Coal in Your Stocking This Holiday Season

**Santa Monica, Calif., November 23, 2009** – With the New Year right around the corner, 2010 just might be the year to break free from the usual resolutions and put in place ones that you can actually plan to keep. Rather than vowing to lose 10 pounds, consider making a pledge to be a better neighbor and tenant. Not only will this resolution help keep you popular among those in your building, but it will also help to extend the holiday cheer through the New Year.

Since fewer renters are moving to new apartment buildings and are instead choosing to re-sign leases or change to a different apartment in the same building, it's more important than ever to create long-lasting relationships with your neighbors. Although it may seem like common courtesy, sometimes it's easy to forget how your behavior affects the people around you. To help kick off this year's resolution, Rent.com's President, Peggy Abkemeier, has a few tips that she recommends to all renters:

- **Tipping Tips:** Don't skip out on tipping your doormen and superintendent during the holidays just because you're not sure how much to give. Holiday tips can range from \$30 to \$100, depending on the building and city you live in, and how often you see the recipients -- the best thing to do is ask your friends and neighbors how much they think you should give, and err on the generous side. Your super will remember this the next time you ask him to fix your toilet!
- **Package P's and Q's:** If you don't have a 24-hour doorman available to collect packages, consider sending your ordered goods to your work address if you know you won't be home to receive them. This saves your neighbors the hassle of being asked to sign for you when you aren't home.
- **Don't Let These Walls Talk:** When you live in an apartment complex, it's important to consider who might be listening to your conversations – whether they want to or not! If you're speaking to someone in the hallway, consider bringing them inside your apartment to continue the conversation. If you aren't comfortable inviting them in, then try to keep your voices low so as not to bother those living around you. All sounds travel so also remember to keep your TV and music at lower volumes during the early and late hours of the day. A good rule of thumb is to keep noise levels low before 10am and after 10pm.
- **Party Permission Slip:** If you're planning to hold a New Year's party in your apartment this year, or any party, any time of year, consider telling your neighbors in advance, either in person or by slipping notes under their doors. Not only will your neighbors appreciate how considerate you are, but it also gives them enough time to make plans of their own, in case they'd prefer not to be home during your at-home karaoke session. Consider inviting them over too, so they don't feel left out!
- **Don't Trash Your Neighbors:** We've all done it before – your kitchen garbage can is full, so you leave the trash bag outside your front door to bring downstairs a little later. Although your trash might not bother you, it could be ruining the ambiance for your neighbors. Making the extra effort to bring the trash bag downstairs right away or keep it inside your own apartment will appease your neighbors while also keeping away unwanted pests.

- **Control Your Critter:** Just because your building is labeled as “pet-friendly” doesn’t mean that all of your neighbors want to be run down by Fido in the hallway. If you’re taking your pet for a walk, make sure to put on the leash before you leave your apartment. This way, you’re able to control your pet easily in just in case you’re sharing the elevator with a neighbor.
- **Parking Patrol:** Just because the whole street is empty when you get home from work, doesn’t give you license to park irresponsibly. Be mindful of neighbors when parking your car and make reasonable efforts to park efficiently so that others will have room to park when they roll in from a long night at the office. If there is a space big enough to fit two cars, don’t park squarely in the middle of it, leave room for that other car. And, if the whole street is empty, park at the end of the closest driveway, or otherwise leave room for cars to fit both in front and behind yours. Doing your part to use street space effectively will save your neighbors the long walk to their apartment late at night and will surely be appreciated.

### **Reward Yourself**

If you’re looking to rent a new place in 2010, consider searching on Rent.com. With the most online traffic, the largest inventory of contracted property listings, and a free robust search tool, Rent.com helps renters find the home of their dreams. Users are also able to search the site’s detailed rental listings, which include contact information, pricing, photos, floor plans, and virtual tours – all for free.

In addition to helping rental seekers find housing, Rent.com rewards renters with a \$100 prepaid Visa® debit card if they find a home on Rent.com, tell their new landlord they found their apartment on Rent.com and report to Rent.com that they signed a lease with a property that participates in the \$100 Reward Program. Consider how handy your \$100 prepaid Visa® debit card will be after the expenses of the holiday season! Below are just a few ideas for what your \$100 prepaid Visa® debit card can be used for this season:

- 4 gallons of paint to decorate your living room, bedroom and kitchen
- 3 months of electricity bills
- 2 pieces of artwork and 5 picture frames to decorate your walls
- 1 new duvet cover and 2 pillow shams to spruce up your bed

### **About Rent.com**

[Rent.com](http://Rent.com) is the nation’s #1 Internet listing site (ILS) in the rental housing industry enabling renters to find a residential rental property online using a free robust search tool. Rent.com has the most online traffic and the largest inventory of contracted property listings. As the only national ILS with a pay per lease business model, Rent.com allows property managers to cost-effectively fill their vacancies.

Prospective renters can search the site’s detailed property listings, including contact information, pricing, photos, floor plans, and virtual tours. With the ability to directly contact property managers, finding the rental housing of your dreams is as easy as 1-2-3.

In addition to providing renters free access to detailed property listings and robust search tools, Rent.com rewards renters with a \$100 prepaid Visa® debit card if they: (1) find their property using the Rent.com website, (2) tell the property owner or manager they found their rental home using Rent.com, and (3) report to Rent.com signing a lease with a property that participates in the \$100 Reward Program. Rent.com is dedicated to giving renters a convenient way to find the perfect place to live.

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