



Renting a Home

***What Do
You Want?***

Renting a Home: What Do You Want?

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After calculating how much you can afford in rent, think about what you want in an apartment. Decide which things are essential, which are nice to have and what items are not acceptable.

Involve everyone who will live in the apartment and make a wish list of features. You can have each person fill out a copy of the Rental Wish List Work Sheet. After completing the wish lists, compare them to see which things you all agree are most important and on which items you can compromise. Also make a note of things you definitely do not want.

Rental Wish List Work Sheet

When you start, you may be undecided about how important some items are as you go through the wish list. Try using an ABCD priority system that can help you see the relative importance of various features. It can help you make compromises later on. Items you list as "A" would be must haves. Items rated "B" are things that would make an apartment more desirable than another in the same price range but are not essential. Some of these items could make the final list based on various compromises. Items with a "C" rating are things that might be considered frills. These items may only be available in rental units that are beyond your price range. Unacceptable items are given a "D" rating and would make renting a unit difficult or impossible to accept. For items or topics that do not apply, simply place "not applicable" in

the rating block. This will show that you have considered the item and did not overlook it.

Because this is a wish list, you can always change your mind later and move items from one priority to another. Once you have worked out your priorities, you are ready to begin shopping for a place to rent.

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Rental Wish List Work Sheet

To help you figure out what you want in an apartment, rate each area according to what you feel is important. Use “A” for the most important and “D” for the least important. Make notes about any additional features you want but are not on the list. Also, mark features that you definitely do not want.

	A	B	C	D
Living Areas				
Number of bedrooms				
Closet space				
Number of full baths				
Closet space				
Linen closet				
Number of half baths				
Living/Family room				
Entryway closet				
Fireplace				
Kitchen				
Counter space				
Cabinets				
Sink/Disposal				
Pantry				
Floor Plan				
Convenient layout				
Wall space for furniture				
Separate storage area				
Patio				
Major Appliances				
Range				
Refrigerator				
Dishwasher				
Washer				
Dryer				
Furnishings				
Living room				
Dining area				
Bedrooms				
Flooring				
Carpeting				
Tile				
Wood				
Commute Cost				
Work				
School				
Other				

	A	B	C	D
Convenience/Proximity				
Work				
School				
Church				
Shopping				
Public transportation				
Recreation facilities				
Other				
Utilities				
Central heating				
Refrigerated air				
Gas				
Water				
Trash collection				
Telephone outlets				
Cable/Satellite outlets				
Safety & Security				
Fire escapes (multistory)				
Low crime rate				
Fenced area				
Quiet street				
Privacy				
On-Site Conveniences				
1 Car parking				
2 Car parking				
Designated parking				
Covered parking				
Laundry room				
Club/Commons room				
Tennis courts				
Playground				
Swimming pool				
Garden space				

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This resource is one in a series on Renting a Home which include:

Deciding to Rent

Advantages and Disadvantages of Renting
Who Will Live There? More About Roommates
What Can You Afford?
What Do You Want?

Finding a Home to Rent

Finding a Rental Unit
Comparing Rental Units
Renting a House
Renting With an Option to Buy

The Rental Process

The Rental Application
Your Right to Fair Housing
Rental Contracts

Legal Aspects of Renting in New Mexico

Regulation of Rental Contracts
New Mexico Rental Law
Military Personnel

Moving Into Your Rented Home

Renters Insurance
Verifying the Condition of the Rental Unit

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