

All about the

A guide to getting back your entire deposit

By Candace Leigh

Unless you find a stellar move-in special, it can seem as though you're just giving money away when you remit your security deposit. Try thinking of it as a no-interest savings plan for your next move. By following these easy steps, you'll likely get back at least a few Ben Franklins: Document the condition of your apartment; maintain your space; and communicate with your apartment manager.

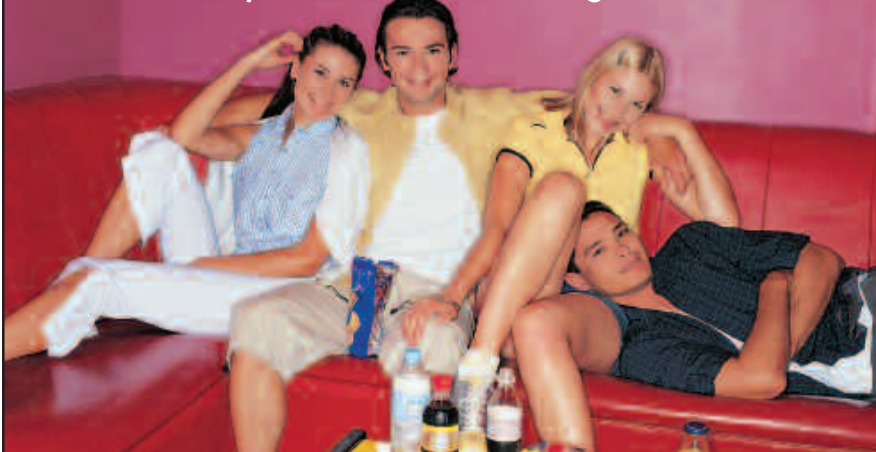
You know that "little" checklist apartment managers give you to denote your

apartment's condition? The one you're tempted to overlook because of everything else you have to worry about during your move? Don't! If possible, have your manager walk through the space with you as you fill out the form so that you can agree about what the terms "good," "fair" and "poor" mean. Make a thorough inspection and take a detailed inventory. The kitchen linoleum isn't just "damaged" — it has "cracks near the baseboard" or "dark circular stains" — ugh!

Benjamins



Come on, you're cool enough



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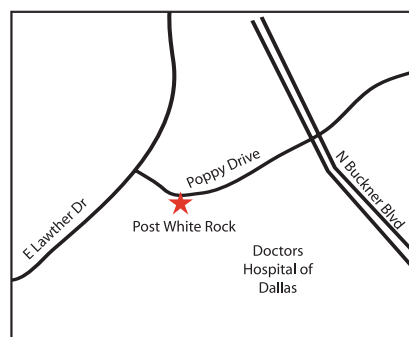


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