



# ***Renting a Home***

## ***Finding a Rental Unit***

# ***Renting a Home: Finding a Rental Unit***

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Finding the right place to rent can be time consuming. Friends, newspaper ads, real estate brokers and property management companies can help. Friends can be the best place to begin your search, especially if they live or have lived in an apartment. They can tell you how well the management answers service calls and takes care of the property, among other things.

Newspapers often have maps in the real estate section, which designate the geographic areas of the city. These maps make it easier to find the areas where rental properties are located. Newspaper ads will give you an idea of rental rates for different types and sizes of apartments in various locations. Learn to read between the lines when looking at ads for rental units. Some apartments look nicer in the ad than they really are. When visiting an apartment complex, ask to see several units. If possible, ask to see the actual apartment that is listed for rent.

Some communities are managed by companies that specialize in rental housing. Check with them for apartment listings. Landlords often list available rental housing with real estate brokers. Call brokers in the area in which you want to live to find out what is available.

If you have access to the Internet, you can search the Web for apartments. This is especially helpful if you are relocating to a distant area. Some Web sites will display a photograph of the apartment along with key information such as the rental

location, price range, type of unit, pet policy and any special property features.

You also can drive around desirable neighborhoods and look for apartments that appeal to you. Consider the appearance of the neighborhood and accessibility to work, friends, relatives, shopping centers, schools, churches and recreation. Narrowing the list of apartments to desirable areas can save you time. Contact the property manager or landlord to determine options, costs and availability.

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

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### **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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