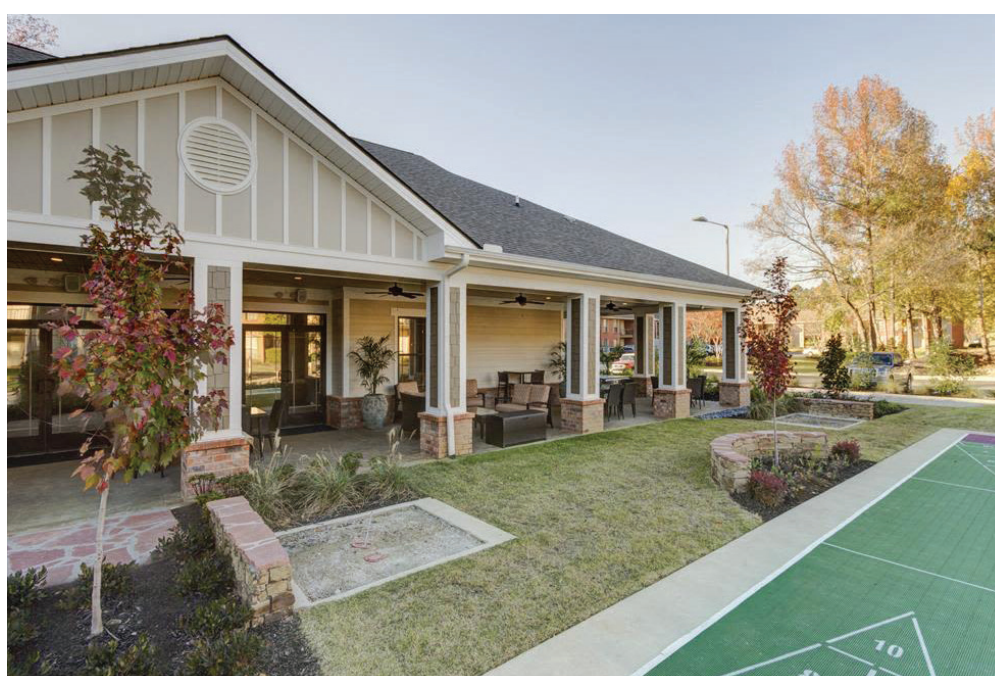
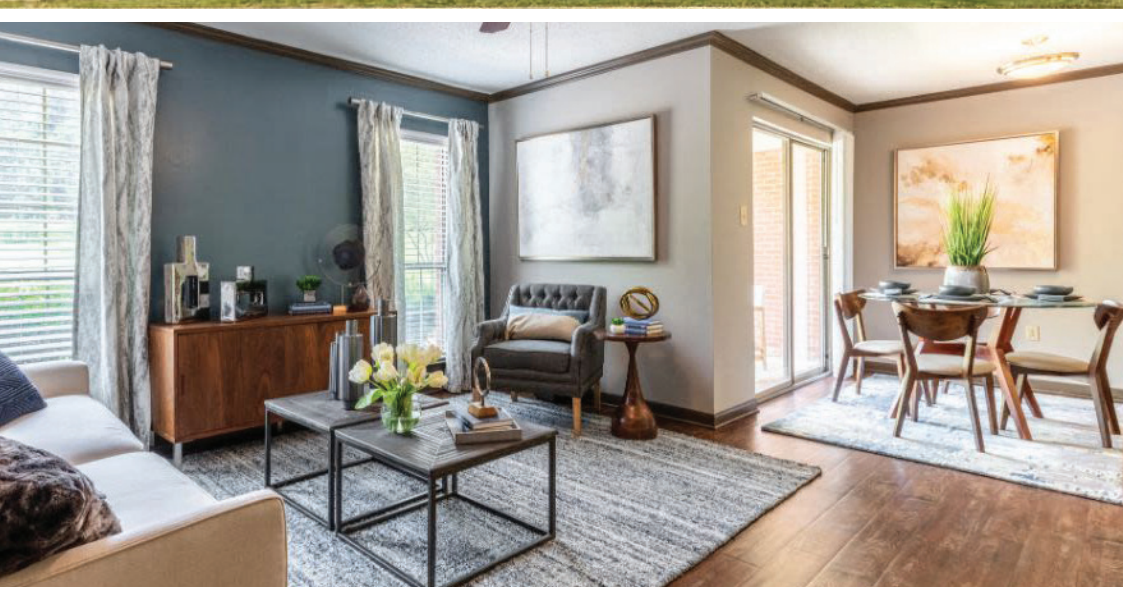


Spring 2021 **HOUSING GUIDE**

A Special Section to The Daily Mississippian



At Home with Heritage Properties | Cambridge Station • Faulkner Flats • Lexington Pointe

Eight Steps to Being a Good Roommate

HAILEA LAMAR

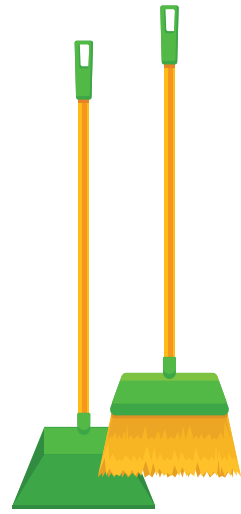
Living in a house or apartment is completely different from living in a dorm. You have a bigger place to take care of, and you might be living with more people than you're used to. Even though there are no CAs to tell you what to do and no set rules you have to follow, living with a bunch of other college students can be tough. Take note of these easy tips and you'll be sure to have a year of smooth sailing.

01

Clean Up After **Yourself**
Nobody wants to wake up to a countertop filled with crumbs from your morning toast and a sticky floor. If you make a mess, take responsibility and clean it up. Leave the mess and you'll find yourself with annoyed/grossed out roommates and, possibly, ants. Nobody wants ants.

02

Split Up the **Chores**
Nobody wants to be the only person taking out the trash, loading and unloading the dishwasher and wiping off crumbly counters. Split up the responsibilities or risk having a resentful roommate who wishes they lived by themselves



03

Be Respectful of Your Noise **Level**
Nothing is more irritating than when you're trying to study for your biology test and your roommate is throwing a raging dance party. Unless it's a weekend, there is really no need to turn up the volume, especially if the people you live with have schoolwork to focus on.



04

Unless You're Sharing, Don't Eat Their **Food**
Those Tostitos sitting in the pantry might look like the perfect after-class snack, but if they aren't yours, be respectful of whoever bought them and leave them alone. If you are sharing your food, replace whatever you ate last. There is nothing worse than running late for class and wanting to grab a Pop-Tart only to find out that the box sitting on the shelf is empty.



05

Alternate Who Buys Household **Supplies**
One person shouldn't be in charge of buying trash bags, paper towels and paper plates. These can really add up throughout the year, so take turns buying items that everyone uses. Another tip: buy them in bulk! Go to Costco or Sam's Club and buy the 20-pack of paper towels. It might seem excessive at the time, but you won't have to worry about running out because those packs last for months

06

Inform Each other If You're Having **Guests**
Having friends and family come to visit is normal, but do make sure your roommates know so there aren't any surprises. It can be a little weird to walk downstairs in your pajamas only to find three strangers sleeping on your couch. Make sure your guests are respectful to your roomies as well.

07

Don't Take Things Without **Permission**
Living with other people means more closets to peruse, more DVDs to pick from and more people to ask if you need a last-minute Scantron. Ask your roommates if you can borrow something of theirs instead of just taking it. They'll be more likely to say yes and let you borrow things in the future.

08

Actually Hang Out with Each **Other**
It can be pretty awkward and tense if you decide to just coexist with your roommates. If you don't know your roommates that well, get to know each other over dinners, movie nights or nights out on the Square. If they aren't already, roommates can turn into some of your best friends if you give them a chance. Having roommates can be one of the best (or worst) parts of college life. You will be living with each other for a year, after all. By following these simple tips, you can guarantee that you'll be the best roommate in Oxford.

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ADULTING 101

04

Tips on how to make the most of your lease this fall
See **page 4**

HOW TO DEFEND YOUR TECH

Arianna Swenson describes how students can safely use public wifi
See **page 6**

06




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Adulting 101

DANIEL DUBUISSON

01

Start **Early**

The sooner you get the wheels in motion the sooner the stress of finding a place will disappear. This is not to say that you should rush. Be sure to take all the time you need to make a smart decision. Some of the best deals on rent happen early on.

02

Lock In Your **Roommate(s)**

Roommates are either the best part of your college experience, or they're the exact opposite. If you live with friends, come to terms that you may not be friends at the end of the year. Make sure you talk about your expectations and desires early on to make things easier moving forward.

03

Set a **Budget**

Talk to your families about how much they're willing to pay before you sign any lease. Make sure you and your future roommate(s) are in agreement. Remember to ask about what utilities are included, what deposits you have to make, and what amenities (pool, gym, tanning beds, furniture, etc.) are available at the property. Those factors are just as important to factor into the budget as the actual rent itself.



04

Weigh Your **Options**

Do not be afraid to look at more than one property before you settle on your final choice. If the agents try to force you into a lease using the promise of waived fees, do not be scared into signing then and there. The good deals will still be around after you tour one or two more places. Make sure you look at places on every side of town as well. The commute to campus is different from every property.

05

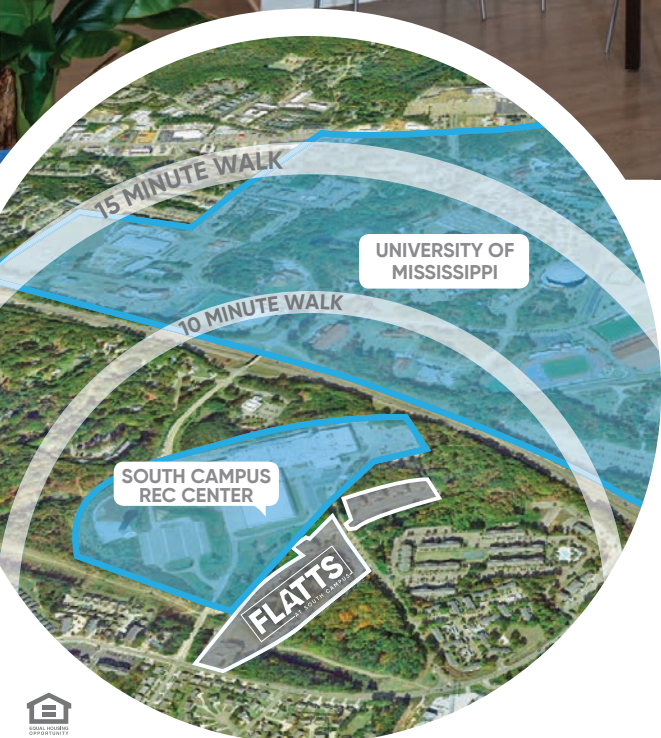
Be **Responsible**

You are an adult now! This is a chance to prove to not only your parents but also yourself that you can make smart and savvy decisions. The decision is yours, and it is up to you to pick the best place possible to live out your next year at Ole Miss.

You may have read this thinking that you're just trying to survive through the impending dread of finals week, but we hope that this prepared you for the off-campus housing rush as well.

The hope is that you all have great places to lay your heads next fall, but we'll throw in a sixth piece of advice as a freebie for you rowdy rebels:

Have **Fun!**



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The Truth About Living On or Off Campus

HADLEY HITSON



FILE PHOTO: BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Every college living situation, whether in a dorm or in an apartment, is truly an amalgamation of highs and lows.

On the sunny side, dorms are a great site for socializing, especially for freshmen and new students. Also, if you are a serial ignorer of alarm clocks, waking up five to ten minutes before an 8 a.m. is completely acceptable, and you will likely still make it to class on time.

The downside, though, materializes in the communal bathrooms, the thin walls and the “probably smaller than you’re used to” rooms. Furthermore, cooking abilities are limited to the microwave unless you decide to spend time and effort braving the communal kitchen on your floor, which a probable majority of students avoid.

When it comes to moving off-campus and into an apartment, these pros and cons all transform. After a year of living in what many students affectionately call a shoebox, your living space more than doubles in size, and you have a full-size kitchen at your disposal. Having an apartment also gives you a space to invite friends over without being limited to literally two guests as per university dorm guidelines.

As far as the downsides to living off-campus are concerned, the most pressing is commuter traffic. During the first week of living in an apartment, you should familiarize yourself with where the university allows commuting students to park on campus.

Honestly, finding a parking space can quickly become a fight to the death in the mornings, so most upperclassmen would recommend leaving your apartment at least 30 minutes before your first class. If worse comes to worst and you park in a spot without the adequate parking sticker on your car, parking monitors will not hesitate to hand out tickets.

Another pro-tip for apartment living is to stock up on cleaning supplies and invest in a vacuum. While you will most likely have a personal bathroom and a shared living room in an apartment, you will not have a kind janitorial staff to keep them clean like in the dorms.

Ultimately, dorm and apartment living are pretty similar, but students should heed the key differences when transitioning from one to the other.



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Protecting Your Tech

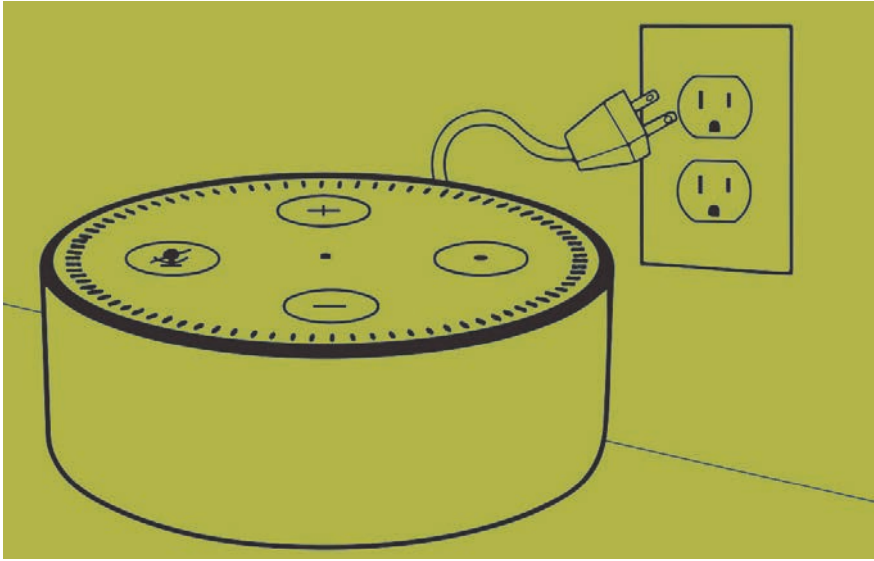
ARIANNA SWENSON

Spring semester can be crammed full of hours of spending a lot of time with your computer. Many of us are searching for that perfect lease or putting out “in search of’s” for roommates. One common thread is we’re all looking for one thing: free wifi.

While free wifi is often a wonderful thing — for one, it means I can leave my dorm to enjoy some coffee, and for two, it means that I have to refrain from screaming about programs not working out loud because I am in public — it does have many downsides including internet speed.

Far more importantly, free internet often comes with security risks, whether it is in a dorm, apartment or a coffee shop. You never know if the person next to you has recently acquired a virus on their computer, or if your landlord happens to be peeking in on your frantic Google search for a new apartment.

In fact, it’s entirely possible you accidentally clicked on a fake network disguised as what you intended on connecting to. Now you’ve connected to a hacker’s



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

setup because you wanted a slightly faster network. (Oops!)

One extremely easy step you can take to protect yourself is to enable a firewall. Some Windows machines come with McAfee already installed, but some users got sick of that two years ago and may not be operating with an enabled firewall right now. Even if it’s just Windows Defender, go turn a firewall on — you’ll probably forget it’s there.

Some basic settings can also help improve your internet security. Turning off file sharing, updating your applications regularly (on a private network), turning off auto-connect and “forgetting” the network after you’re done with it can all improve your security and cause you minimal hassle.

Other steps include setting up two-factor authentication, getting a Virtual Private Network (VPN)

and using password managers to help hide your passwords from anyone peeking in. Using https:// links ensures that your connection to a website is encrypted using Secure Socket Layer (SSL).

Finally, if you’re feeling really high-tech and don’t live in the dorms, you can install a personal wifi router to privatize your internet connection. This will allow you to set your own password, hide the network, and ensure that the only one you have to worry about on the internet is you.



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How To Make Your Rental Feel Like Home

HANNAH VINES

Making a rental property feel like your own can be somewhat of a challenge. In most cases, you aren't allowed to paint the walls, choose between carpet or hardwood floors and some places don't have a lot of dedicated space for those long nights of studying.

We've compiled a few tips for students looking to turn their rental into a retreat that they are actually happy to call home. Disclaimer: This list doesn't include fuzzy toilet seat covers with a matching bath mat (sorry).

Pay Attention to Lighting

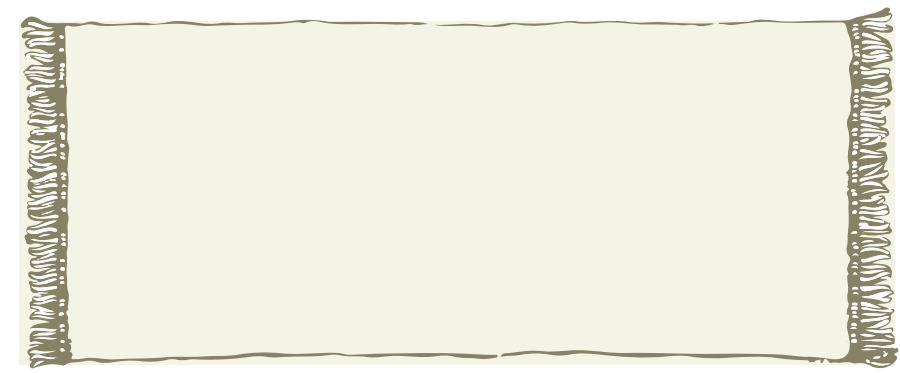
You may not give much thought to the kind of bulbs you're purchasing for that lamp by your nightstand or that overhead light in the kitchen, but the color temperature of your bulb effects the mood of your room (which effects your mood, too). The infographic below showcases what bulb you should buy based on the room in your house:

**Soft White**
Color: warm, yellowish
Ideal for: living room and bedroom lamps

**Warm White**
Color: yellowish-white
Ideal for: kitchens and bathrooms

**Bright White**
Color: between white and bluish
Ideal for: work spaces such as garages and kitchens

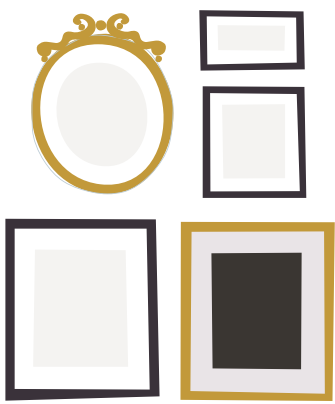
**Daylight**
Color: more bluish, maximizes contrast for colors
Ideal for: reading, working, or makeup vanities



Consider Using a Rug

A rug can really warm up a room and soften the noise associated with apartment complexes. Plus, they help solidify a color scheme. Rugs also designate certain areas if your space is open concept— just be sure the feet of your furniture are covering a portion of your rug so it doesn't feel like it's just "floating."

Note: Rugs aren't ONLY for hardwood or tile. If you have scary carpet in your bedroom, putting in a neutral, muted area rug can help hide the ugly. It's not illegal, people!

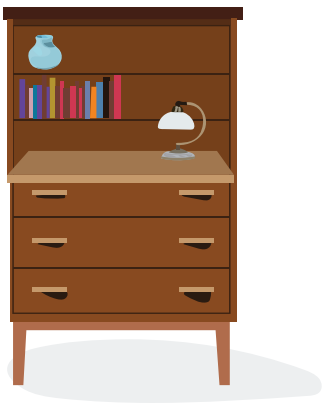


Artwork

Artwork is probably the easiest way to make your rental feel like yours. Whether it's a curated display of your favorite prints, a black & white gallery wall of your most special memories, or a painting that draws from colors in your pillows— hanging artwork makes it easy to express yourself without breaking the rules of your lease.

Removable Wallpaper

There are so many places nowadays to get beautiful, fun wallpaper— without the burden of having to live with it forever. We suggest applying it to a small space like a powder bathroom or maybe an accent wall. If you have commitment issues, this is a great option.

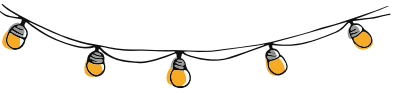


Create a Work/Study Space

If you don't have a lot of room to work (or work with) in your house, you'll have to get a little creative. This doesn't mean sitting on your laptop while in bed. A designated work space helps your mind separate work from rest. One way to do this is to have furniture that doubles in function: i.e. a secretary's desk. This little magic piece of furniture can house both your clothes and your school work. We suggest going a little taller with these if you don't have a lot of square footage.

String Lights

We're back to lighting again, because string lights are the real MVP. If you live in a place that has a sad backyard situation, just add string lights! If your bedroom is really dark and kind of creepy— add string lights! Maybe you have a very small slab of concrete that's being called a "balcony" or "porch?" Two words: Move. Out. Just kidding. STRING LIGHTS! They really do have a way of making a space feel more inviting.



Add Greenery

Let's face it, being stuck indoors all the time has been the worst. Working and going to school from home can have a significant effect on our mental health, which is why it's important to bring the outdoors in! Although you don't HAVE to buy real house plants to get that mood-boosting effect, there are many benefits to having real plants in your home:

- Help reduce stress and anxiety
- Reduce toxins in the air, making your air cleaner
- Can enhance creativity
- Increases wellbeing
- Can Increase productivity and cognition by 15%

Plus, they just look good! Humans are naturally drawn to colors that reflect their natural setting.



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