

MAKING A GOOD IMPRESSION

Faculty/Staff

“You only have one chance to make a good first impression.”

There is always competition for the best houses and it is worthwhile to make the best first impression possible. It is up to you to demonstrate that you are the best applicant. The following suggestions are based upon extensive interviews with landlords.

- **It starts with the phone call.** Be polite, speak slowly, and be succinct with your questions. Since most people lead busy lives, you may reach a message machine. Don't get frustrated. It shows in your voice and can make a bad impression. Repeat your phone number at the end of the message and leave a time they might best reach you.
- **Dress for the occasion.** When you meet with a prospective landlord, you are potentially entering into a business relationship. Present a neat and clean appearance; consider dressing as you would for a job interview.
- **Be prepared.** Bring a clean copy of your Rental Application Packet. A thorough and neat rental application packet shows potential landlords that you are responsible, motivated, and organized. Visit our website for a checklist of what to include.
- **Keep your appointments and be on time.** If you cannot make an appointment, call to reschedule or cancel. Everyone understands that emergencies happen, but no one likes to be stood up without an explanation or apology.
- **Bring references.** A positive letter of recommendation from your previous landlord stating your dependability and trustworthiness as well as letters from employers can be effective.
- **Be prepared financially - have the money available!** Owners and managers typically ask for first month's rent and a security deposit equal to at least one month's rent in advance. Be prepared to pay the deposit and the first month's rent when you sign the rental agreement. Always get a receipt for any financial transactions.