

THE TRANSITION FROM APARTMENT LIVING TO HOME LIVING REQUIRES SOME ADJUSTMENTS

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The transition can be a shock and this article is offered to help educate you to the differences in services and responsibilities. Home rentals offer more privacy, storage, and most often garages.

However, it will require a change in what you have been accustomed. Listed below are services that will in most cases will no longer be provided.

1. **Pest Control Services** is usually not provided
2. **Most plumbing & disposer** problems are Resident caused and we will have to bill the Resident the costs. If the problem is caused by tree roots or utility problems then it is the owner's responsibility.
3. **No lockout service** is available anymore. Lose your keys and you will have to get a locksmith.
4. **Landscaping is often times the responsibility of the Resident.** In some cases landscaping is provided, however the rent is usually higher. Sprinkler repair, racking leaves, cutting grass, trimming shrubbery, irrigating, weeding and fertilizing are things that were done by the apartment staff will no longer be available. Large tree trimming should not be attempted by the Resident.
5. **Appliance maintenance and replacement** could be the responsibility of the Resident. Check your rental agreement. Stoves, dishwashers, microwaves are usually maintained by the owner. Refrigerators are sometimes furnished and may be the responsibility of the Resident.
6. **Filters, smoke alarm batteries, and light bulbs** are the responsibility of the Resident.

WHY CAN'T WE GET THE SAME SERVICES WE ENJOYED AT THE APARTMENT HOUSE WHERE WE FORMERLY LIVED?

The reasons are many:

Apartments are located close together and allow maintenance services to several units, while on location. Some apartments have full time on-site maintenance people. This allows economy of operation. You probably had a resident manager on-site that help with many requests.

If you really compared the home your are living in to the apartment you probably have more square footage of living area and a lower rent per square foot. Perhaps you now have a fenced yard, patio, garage, fireplace, etc. In other words you are getting more living space, storage, and a larger land area.

Owners would have to charge 1 ½ to 2 times more in rent to provide the same services you formally enjoyed. It would make the rent too high.

I hope this explains the differences in the living accommodations.

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