RASRR
Rutgers Alliance for Sustainable Risk Reduction

Good Neighbor Guide
Living Off-Campus

Living off-campus can be an exciting college experience but comes with many responsibilities. It’s important to understand your rights and responsibilities as a tenant and community member where you live. Being a respectful community member will make your living environment better for you and your neighbors.

The Rutgers Off-Campus Housing Service aims to assist students in connecting to the university and making a positive impact on their off-campus living experience. Visit: http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu for information on topics such as:

- How To Find a Rental
- Lease Contents Checklist
- Tenant-Landlord Rights and Responsibilities
- Living with Roommates or Subleasing

Remember that the off-campus neighborhood you live in is different than living in an on-campus dormitory and comes with different responsibilities. Your neighbors may be people who work full-time or have children and follow a different schedule than you do. Follow some of the suggestions on the next page to be a good neighbor!
### 6 Tips to Successful Off-Campus Living

1. **Get to Know Your Neighbors**
   Introduce yourself to your neighbors so you know who is living around you. It’ll be easier to resolve any problems later if you already know each other.

2. **Keep Noise to a Minimum**
   Just like you wouldn’t want your neighbor to mow their lawn at 6:00 a.m. on a Saturday, they won’t want to hear your stereo or party late at night. Most towns have noise ordinances with expensive fines so be sure to check your municipal code for specific information.

3. **Keep Your Property Neat and Clean**
   Follow trash, bulk pick up, and recycling laws. To avoid attracting pests, don’t let your garbage pile up. Recycling is mandatory in NJ and most towns have guidelines about garbage disposal. Check your town’s property maintenance codes for more detailed information.

4. **Maintain Your Residence**
   Keep your residence (inside and out!) in good condition. Not only will it make living conditions better for you and your neighbors, you can avoid potential charges for damages when you move out. In the winter, make sure you follow your town’s laws on removing snow and ice from the sidewalk.

   *Also, remember to check your lease and talk with your landlord to understand who is responsible for removing trash, shoveling snow, and making repairs. You don’t want to be responsible for paying a town fine if your lease indicates your landlord is responsible for snow removal and it hasn’t been done.*

5. **Park Carefully**
   Only park where you’re designated to park. You wouldn’t want to come home and find someone in your assigned spot, so don’t do it to someone else. Make sure you follow any guidelines your town may have such as parking permits, alternate side parking, or no parking zones.

6. **Tend to Your Pets**
   If your pet leaves a mess, make sure to clean it up. Follow any town rules about vaccinations, leashes, barking, and licensing.
SAFETY: What You Should Know!

Living off-campus means you’ll need to consider the safety of your residence and your neighborhood. Follow some of these tips and check out the home security and fire safety checklists on the Rutgers Off-Campus Housing Service website: http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu.

► Program your town police department phone number and Rutgers Police (732-932-7211) into your phone.

► Sign up for emergency text message notifications at http://emergency.rutgers.edu.

► **Lock your doors** even when you are at home! Make sure that all windows on the ground level can be locked and are kept locked. Don’t let people unknown to you follow you into your apartment complex or enter through a door you are exiting. If living with roommates, the last one home at night is the one with the most responsibility to make sure doors and windows are closed and locked. Don’t undo what your roommates remembered to do.

► **Be aware of your surroundings** and always walk around the neighborhood with others. Never walk alone.
► If you choose to consume alcohol, **use alcohol responsibly.**
Intoxication reduces your ability to stay alert. For more information on alcohol use, check out the *RASRR Guide to Successful Social Events*.

► Take the **Knight Mover** when you are traveling around campus at night after regular buses have stopped running. Program their number **732-932-RIDE (7433)** into your phone and visit [http://rudots.rutgers.edu/campusbuses.shtml](http://rudots.rutgers.edu/campusbuses.shtml) for more information.

► **Read RUPD’s Crime Alerts.** Crime alerts are emailed to all students and can also be found at [http://publicsafety.rutgers.edu/rupd/crime.shtml](http://publicsafety.rutgers.edu/rupd/crime.shtml)

Additional personal safety tips can be found at:
[http://publicsafety.rutgers.edu/rupd/crimetips.shtml](http://publicsafety.rutgers.edu/rupd/crimetips.shtml)
If your son/daughter has decided to move off-campus, help him/her prepare for the responsibility that comes along with renting and being a good neighbor. Here are some tips to help your child think about the advantages and disadvantages to living off-campus:

1. Determine a budget and how financial costs will be paid for such as monthly rent, utilities, and other expenses like groceries. What will your son/daughter do if he/she cannot pay the rent or if a roommate doesn’t pay rent?

2. Understand the terms of the lease and what your son/daughter and his/her landlord is responsible for. Consider things like who pays for utilities, and who is responsible for removing garbage and shoveling snow.

3. Help your son/daughter find a rental that is in good condition, and will meet his/her needs. If the rental is not in good condition, your son/daughter may need advice to decide if he/she should find another place or work with the landlord to have repairs made.

4. Your son/daughter may choose to live with roommates and should understand the advantages and challenges to living with other people.

Living off-campus can be a rewarding experience that helps develop independence but should be considered carefully. Help your son/daughter think through some of these challenges and make a decision that works for both you and your child.
### Useful Phone Numbers and Websites

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rutgers Off-Campus Housing Service</td>
<td><a href="http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu">http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>732-445-5737</td>
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<td>Rutgers Alliance for Sustainable Risk Reduction</td>
<td><a href="http://rasrr.rutgers.edu">http://rasrr.rutgers.edu</a></td>
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<td>Rutgers Counseling, ADAP, &amp; Psychiatric Services (CAPS)</td>
<td><a href="http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/">http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/</a></td>
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<td>732-932-7884</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of New Brunswick</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cityofnewbrunswick.org/">http://www.cityofnewbrunswick.org/</a></td>
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Rutgers
Center of Alcohol Studies

RASRR
The Rutgers Alliance for Sustainable Risk Reduction (RASRR) is a diverse group of people from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and the greater New Brunswick area who are concerned about and working to reduce the dangerous drinking practices among 18 to 25 year-olds in and around our community. Visit rasrr.rutgers.edu for more information about us.