

## Deposit

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any more, the chances your landlord will take excessive amounts out of your deposit increase. However, if you show that you care about the place, keep it in nice order and thoroughly clean before turning in your keys, your odds decrease.

Renting a carpet cleaner may save you from having to pay your landlord for hiring professionals (or so he or she says) to shampoo your carpet, which can cost a fortune.

Another cost often faced is having mini-blinds professionally cleaned, especially if you smoked in your home. As summer approaches and blinds are left open, you might not notice how dirty they've become. However, they are easily cleaned with

some all purpose cleaner and a little elbow grease.

### Repairs

Spackling holes in walls could save you money and so could repairing a broken hinge on a door. Replace all burnt out light bulbs, and clean the mirrors. Change the batteries in your smoke detector.

Remember, the most important thing is to make sure you leave the unit in better condition than when you moved in. When you are finished — half intoxicated from the cleaner fumes — take another look around and ask yourself, "Would I move into this place in the condition it is in now?"

And if all else fails, ASUO Legal Services provides students with advice and sometimes legal representation in court, should you have to sue your landlord to retrieve your deposit money.

## Housing

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ent sizes, colors and prices. Ranging from one to four bedrooms, the apartments can be as quiet or social as one wants. Most apartments have furnishings, laundry, full kitchens, safety features and parking. Additionally, students share athletic facilities such as a pool, a hot tub and volleyball and basketball courts. Located near Autzen Stadium, these complexes are a five-minute bike ride or a short bus trip from campus.

Although they often have less amenities than the Autzen complexes, there are also numerous apartments within walking distance of coffee shops and classes. The options and prices range greatly, but complexes offer the necessities: a place to eat, a place to

sleep and some room for living.

### Renting a house

Because the usual maximum on apartments is four people, junior Kai Welsh realized that if you want to live with more people, you need to rent a house. Paying about \$290 a month, Welsh lives with four friends and his cat, Ferris. He likes his house because he only has to interact with the people he chose to live with.

"I don't have to see everyone who lives in the swarm [apartments]," he said. Welsh feels that the apartments by Autzen Stadium are homogenous, sterile, secluded and too far away. He explained that in a house you can have pets and parties, and you can cook for yourself. Comparing his house to a canvas, Welsh said, "You can have your own artistic expression."

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