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Have a Roommate? Find the Floorplan that Fits

CHICAGO (June 12, 2012) – Nearly four out of five renters have one. A roommate, that is – according to a survey by apartments.com. In fact, 80 percent of renters polled said they either currently have or have had a roommate. Here in Chicago, those numbers could be the same, according to RMK Management Corp., the Chicago area’s largest market-rate apartment management firm.

“Our property managers see lots of renters who are looking for an apartment with a roommate, and so we have lots of experience in not only helping roommates navigate the rental process together, but also in offering tips for a successful roommate relationship,” said Anthony Rossi, Sr., president of RMK Management Corp.

According to Rossi, the first step for a good roommate relationship is having open communication, such as agreeing to a location, budget, and breakdown of responsibilities. Once all of the basics have been agreed upon, Rossi said the fun begins – finding the perfect apartment.

“Yes, shopping for an apartment is a very big task and can be stressful, it should also be fun. And that’s what our leasing associates are here for – to make the process as easy and enjoyable as possible,” said Rossi. “They can show renters a variety of floor plans within their price range and help them select the apartment that fits them best.”

The most popular floor plan among roommates is the two-bed, two-bath plan, he said. Apartments with this layout are available at all RMK-managed communities throughout Chicagoland.

“With two bedrooms and two full baths, the division of space is pretty simple – each roommate has their own space,” Rossi noted. “And this equal division is also pretty simple with a two-bed, one-bath apartment, since there is no question that the bath will be shared.” He added that the two-bed, one-bath plan is the second most popular layout among roommates.

Rossi said the second thing roommates need to look for is adequate common space, meaning the living room, eating area and kitchen. For example, at Glenmuir in Naperville, most plans feature separate living and dining areas, spacious balconies or patios and in-unit laundry rooms. Other properties with oversized living areas include Coventry Glen in Round Lake and Versailles on the Lakes in Schaumburg.

Lastly, Rossi said roommates should look for a community that offers recreational amenities to suit both residents’ lifestyle. “Fitness centers, swimming pools and ball courts are always favorites, but roommates should consider a community with a business center or media room and clubhouse or party room,” he advised. “That way, if one roommate has to work, he or she



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can use the business center while the other entertains at home. Or, a roommate can host guests in the club room while the other works at home. Having those options definitely helps keep the peace when sharing an apartment.”

For those who are preparing to live with a roommate for the first time, Rossi offers these tips:

- 1.) Be open in expressing your wants and needs. If you’re an early bird, say so. Or if you like your home to be neat and tidy, be sure to be honest about that, too. Being upfront about how you live from the start can head off misunderstandings later.
- 2.) Be flexible. While it’s important to be assertive about what you hope to get from the living arrangement, roommates also need to remember that this is a shared space and shared experience, so compromise is important.
- 3.) “Friends first” isn’t always the best way to go. Even the best of friendships have fallen apart under a co-living situation, so really consider whether the buddy that you love meeting for dinner would be the right fit for you to live with day in and day out.
- 4.) Sign a formal lease. This is very important to protect both roommates in the event the living arrangement doesn’t work out; one roommate needs to move out early; or a host of other potential situations.

For more information on RMK Management Corp. and its portfolio of properties, visit www.rmk.com.

Chicago-based RMK Management Corp. manages more than 10,000 apartment homes in the Chicago, Minneapolis and Merrillville, Indiana areas. The company’s portfolio spans a range of apartment types, from high-rise and mid-rise buildings to two- and three-story walk-up apartments, garden apartments and affordable housing. RMK also develops, builds and renovates communities. The 25 Chicagoland communities are located in Round Lake, Waukegan, Zion, Barrington, Palatine, Libertyville, Schaumburg, Arlington Heights, Oswego, Aurora, Naperville, Downers Grove, Oakbrook Terrace, Evanston, Lombard, Wildwood, Chicago and Merrillville, Ind. Communities in Minnesota are located in Minneapolis and Edina.

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