

TYPES OF RENTALS

Room Rentals

A "room rental" has facilities for sleeping and studying. It may be in a private house or in a "boarding" or "rooming" house where there are many sleeping-studying rooms. In most cases, bathrooms are usually shared with other residents. There may or may not be "kitchen privileges," or access to cooking facilities. Room rentals usually cost between \$400.00 and \$500.00 per month. This does not include food.

Apartment Rentals

An apartment is a complete living unit. You generally do not share facilities with other residents, except for laundry machines in some cases. General appliances (refrigerator, stove) are most often included.

Renters generally need to pay for electricity, gas, cable, water, telephone and internet service in addition to rent. However, some apartments may include one or more of these utilities in the rental fee.

There are several kinds of apartments:

- **Studio apartments**
 - 2 rooms: bathroom and another large room that serves as kitchen, bedroom, and living room
 - Suitable for one or perhaps two people
- **Unfurnished apartments**
 - One, two, three, and sometimes four bedrooms
 - The renter must acquire all furniture that is needed (couch, bed, desk, table, etc.)
 - Costs less than furnished apartments.
- **Furnished apartment**
 - Includes all furniture, but usually not linens (towels, sheets, etc.) or cooking and eating utensils.

House Rentals

International students who are here with their families or friends may want to rent an entire house.

- Houses may be furnished or unfurnished.
- Renters generally must pay for utilities in addition to rent (electricity, gas, water, telephone, garbage, internet, etc.)
- The amount of rent required depends on size, location, furnishings, and the general condition of the house.
- Houses for rent are usually located through property management companies or through personal contacts with landlords or with renters who are vacating a house.

IMPORTANT RENTAL INFORMATION

Important information you should know before you rent an apartment or a house:

- A renter, or "tenant," usually has to pay for his or her own utilities (i.e., electricity, gas, internet, water and telephone), although the monthly rent may include some of these. The landlord or manager can explain what you must do to begin utility services. (Connect electricity, gas, telephone service, etc.)
- Be sure to ask about deposits and other special fees, and whether these additional costs are refundable or non-refundable.

- The costs for an apartment can range from \$400.00 to \$1000.00 per month approximately. The cost depends on how many people are sharing the apartment, whether or not utilities are included and whether or not it is furnished. These costs never include food.
- Unfurnished apartments cost much less than furnished apartments. Inexpensive second-hand (used) furniture is easy to buy and sell in Bellingham.
- There are far more unfurnished than furnished apartments in Bellingham.
- Many college students rent an apartment or house to share in Bellingham.
- The busiest and best time to find an apartment or house to rent in Bellingham is June, July, August, and sometimes in early September.
- You should call or visit the complex to obtain the most current information regarding facilities, rules, deposits, fees and rent.

FINDING A RENTAL

The information on this page will assist you in finding a rental apartment or house in Bellingham. Good luck with your housing search!

Apartments close to WCC's campus: **Cascade Meadows:** 455 Westerly Rd., Bellingham 98226 (360) 715-2300; and **Belleau Woods:** www.belleauwoodsapartments.com

Dormitory-Style Property Management near WWU: Painless Properties

2110 Bill MacDonald Parkway, #1, 360-734-5374, www.painlessproperties.com

If no rental history, cosigner needed. If neither 3 month's rent up front with student ID.

Craigslist (www.bellingham.craigslist.org) is a good source for finding rental listings. It is recommended that if you call or visit any properties listed on craigslist, to visit in the daytime and do not go alone.

Property Management Companies

Apex Property Management

1801 F Street
360-527-9829
www.apex-property.com
Need a cosigner in US

Windemere Property Management

541 W. Bakerview Rd
360-733-7944
www.rentalsbywindemere.com
1-2 month's rent in advance.

Son-Rise

Property Management Inc.
109 East Chestnut
360-738-3700
www.son-rise.net
Provide Visa, proof of enrollment, proof of funds. Properties close to WCC.

Chuckanut Property Management

2100 Iron Street
360-733-3640
www.chuckanutproperty.com
Need a cosigner or proof of income

Access Real Estate

1313 Maple St.
360-685-0123
www.accessrealestateservices.com

Hammer Properties

102 Ohio St.
360-756-6500
www.hammerpropertiesnw.com
Check documentation: Visa, gift affidavits, website updated daily

Lakeway Realty, Inc.

3547 Lakeway Drive
360-733-4009
www.lakewayrentals.com