



SPRING HOUSING GUIDE

2023

Dorm departure: a guide to off-campus living

JUSTICE ROSE
thedmopinion@gmail.com

Saying goodbye to your dorm and on-campus living is a melancholic moment; it likely hasn't hit you yet. Once that dorm room is bare, reborn and washed of the many sins that took place there, the memories will flood in. Remember when "that" happened on "this" futon? You are sure to miss the convenience of campus living; it's inevitable. Being able to wake up and walk to class in 5-10 minutes is a luxury freshmen do not realize until it's too late. Proximity to campus is an important factor to consider when picking an off-campus dwelling. Well, not only distance from campus but also places you frequent. A square regular? You might want to think about accommodations available for night-life safety and transportation. Transportation in general is a major part of off-campus living. If you have a car, you'll usually be able to get wherever you want in a timely manner before noon or five o'clock traffic. Pro tip: Those are the worst traffic times anywhere, not just Oxford. Driving through Oxford, no commute is terribly long. Still, pay attention to gas consump-

tion and look out for deals. Kroger rewards is a personal favorite of mine as grocery shopping helps take money off my gas. This was a lifesaver last spring semester when national gas prices surged to over \$4 per gallon. If you don't have a car, listen closely. You are at the mercy of your gracious friend who lends you rides or Oxford University Transit. The bus system is rather expansive, but buses are still huge, slow vehicles driven by humans. This means that here and there, you will be late relying on the bus. That's an absolute. To remedy this, you have to get time management in order. Depending on where you live, a bus arrives around every 30 minutes. You have to be ready to go, at the latest, 30 minutes before your schedule calls for you to be present somewhere. But transportation isn't the only thing to consider. Stocking your fridge until it looks like a doomsday bunker ration is tempting. All your favorite snacks line the shelves, an entire section dedicated to bottled water and your favorite drinks and a fresh drawer packed full with veggies. Don't do anything close to that. Especially not at the beginning of the semester. Instead, consider the meal plan you'll be on, your class sched-

ule/workload and your finances before committing several hundred dollars to a single grocery basket too early in the semester. If you won't be on a meal plan, keep in mind that every student has \$250-\$300 in flex dollars to spend for dining on campus. That works out to about two modest meals a week depending on how you divide it. Divvying that money over 14ish weeks isn't the easiest when you walk through the union and the Chick-Fil-A line is actually manageable. Ironically, that's turned into their on-campus business model. Is the line short? Might as well get it while you can; the line is usually stretched back near the building entrance. But I digress. Some rely on flex during the first couple of weeks before school while waiting for refund checks to disburse. Others use it liberally and run out well before mid-term passes. It's all about knowing where you stand and how well you save money. The problem many have with grocery shopping is that they try and do too much. They literally buy so much food that much of it gets forgotten or ignored. I'm almost certain that psychology and availability play some role in this phenomenon; ideas that we want what we don't have, and how we devalue what's in front of

us, but that's another rabbit hole. A more plausible, less convoluted reason is that students are too tired to cook after a long day. At your first apartment or house, you'll finally have your own stuff after a year of sharing everything. You'll be particularly grateful for your own bathroom and the ability to shower and get ready at your own pace. If you lived in a community residence hall, this might be the biggest upgrade that comes with living off campus. Picking the right roommates, the set of people that fit with your lifestyle, is vital in ensuring an ideal living situation. I'd say the best number of total people in a college apartment or townhouse is three. This time around, securing a lease with that few roommates is rather unrealistic; the school population is considerably bigger, and space is beginning to run low. Also, the lower the number of roommates, the more expensive your lease will be. So it'll likely be around four people living together. At least one of those people can be your best friend, but I'd advise against staying with three best pals. Why? It's easy to get distracted in an environment like that. Your friend is always down the hall from you, not a slightly more inconvenient two-minute drive up the road. Once again, it comes down to

knowing yourself. Can you stay focused and handle business first? How your freshman year is going is a rather good indicator. There's still plenty of time to straighten things out, though. Evaluating a potential roommate's cleanliness is the most important thing to do before signing a lease together. See if you could get a look at their current room, their car or any other space they occupy. I'd even say take note of personal hygiene. While it may sound shallow, how well these spaces are kept will help you predict how they'll treat your house. A dirty room, which is significantly smaller than an apartment, could be a dealbreaker. All in all, living off campus is the next step in matriculation for many, a time when responsibility is tested frequently. There will be fun times, maybe a house party or kickback after a long week. There will be bad times when your roommates make you want to pull your hair out. It's important to settle in a dynamic that works for you and helps you excel where you need to. Good luck in this apartment-hunting chapter of life. Hopefully, you won't have to repeat it during your remaining time on campus. Do it right once, and you'll never have to do it again, or however the cliché goes.

Moving from a dorm to an apartment? Make sure you have these five essentials

HG BIGGS
thedmphotos@gmail.com

1. Can opener

When I went to Walmart with my mom shortly before moving into my apartment, she asked me if I had a can opener. I did not and would not have thought to pick one up had she not mentioned it. You're going to need a can opener eventually, no matter how little you cook, so make sure you have one in

one of your kitchen drawers for when you inevitably get a cold or stomach bug and need to open a can of soup.

2. Drain snake and drain cleaner

Having a clogged sink or bathtub with no way to fix the problem is a frustrating experience. While most apartment complexes have a maintenance request portal, maintenance workers often take several days to complete the request. You

don't want to have to shower in a tub filled with scummy water or brush your teeth in a sink that won't drain.

3. One pot, one pan, one bowl:

I do almost all of my cooking with one pot, one pan and one bowl. These three items are the bare essentials for a kitchen that many people likely did not buy when living in campus dorms. Whether you have a campus meal plan or not, make

no mistake, you will eventually want to use the kitchen in your new apartment.

4. Swiffer Wetjet or similar product

Unless you want to constantly be walking around on all the dirt you track onto your floor from Oxford, you'll need some sort of mop.

5. Electric kettle or microwave safe kettle

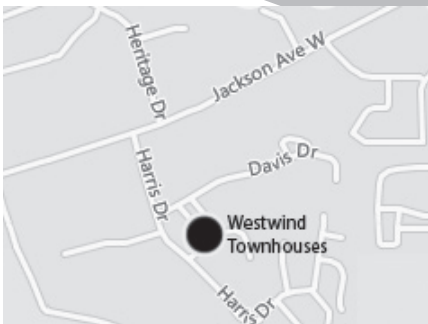
Do you drink tea? Instant

coffee? Live off of instant noodles like many college students? Then you'll need to be able to boil water. Boiling water on a stovetop doesn't take long, but having an electric kettle or one that you can heat up in the microwave further speeds up the process. I use my microwave kettle daily for tea and on nights that I don't have the energy to make anything other than a cup of Maruchan instant ramen.



Large bedrooms • Quiet atmosphere • No pets
2 bed • 2 and a half bath

Rent includes water & cable



Michael Drive off of W Jackson Ave.

662.234.0000

Kharley's Kitchen: easy recipes to start your cooking adventure

KHARLEY REDMON
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

For many, a first apartment or house means saying goodbye to a meal plan and saying hello to the world of cooking. If you find yourself overwhelmed thinking about this new task, Kharley's Kitchen is here to help. Here are three of my personal favorite family recipes that can be made by anyone, no matter how much experience you have in the kitchen.

Kharley's Chicken Noodle Soup

There's nothing like a hearty bowl of chicken noodle soup on a cold night. Not only is this chicken noodle soup easy to make, but one batch can be your lunch for the whole week. Ingredients: 2 cups rotisserie chicken, 64 fl.oz. of chicken broth, 2 cups egg noodles, 2 carrots, 2 stalks of celery, 2 cloves of garlic, 1/2 tsp. parsley flakes, green onions, your favorite oil. Directions: Debone the rotisserie chicken. Use half for the soup and save half for chicken sandwiches later throughout the week. Slice the carrots and celery into disks and chop the green onions

and garlic. Sauté the green onions and garlic in a splash of oil in your soup pot. Add the chicken broth, noodles and chicken. Season to taste with black pepper (add a lot just trust me), salt, paprika, onion powder and garlic powder. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and let simmer until the vegetables are soft and noodles are cooked.

Mom's Baked Tilapia, Rice, and Brussel Sprouts

Right now, chicken and beef are expensive. Although fish isn't for everyone, tilapia is cheap, tasty and easy to prepare. The rice and brussel sprouts pair nicely and give you a well rounded meal with protein, carbs and veggies. This recipe can be done with broccoli if brussel sprouts aren't your thing, or if neither of those sound good to you any salad makes a good compliment. Ingredients: 4-5 tilapia filets, Brussel Sprouts, 2 boxes of Rice A Roni long grain wild rice, butter, olive oil, Montreal Steak Seasoning, Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning. Tilapia Directions: Dethaw tilapia in cold water. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Cover a baking sheet with tinfoil and olive oil. Place tilapia on the sheet. Put small pads of butter on top and season with Montreal Steak Seasoning.



KHARLEY REDMON / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Bake for 6-8 minutes or until done (the fish should be white inside). Brussel Sprouts: Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Cover a baking sheet with tinfoil, and lightly dust with olive oil. Parboil the brussel sprouts for 10 minutes and then plunge in a small ice bath. Cut the brussel sprouts in half, toss them in as much olive oil and Tony's as you see fit. Place on a pan and cook for 20 minutes.

Rice A Roni Directions: Follow the directions on the back of the box. Nanny's Banana Pudding Everybody needs to have a dessert recipe on lock that they can bring to a party or potluck. Here's my grandmother's recipe for perfect banana pudding. Ingredients: At least 2 large bananas, a large box of banana instant

pudding, vanilla wafers, cool whip. Directions: Prepare instant pudding and slice bananas. In an 8x8 baking dish put a layer of vanilla wafers, then a layer of bananas, then 1/2 of the instant banana pudding. Repeat. Put a layer of cool whip on top. Crumble two vanilla wafers up and spread on top for decoration. Chill for an hour.



You've never lived like this.

- Walk or bike to class at Ole Miss
- Nighttime shuttle to The Square
- Fully furnished townhomes with leather-style sectional sofa
- 2,500 sq ft, state-of-the-art fitness center
- Self-service roommate matching powered by RoomSync

Ole Miss OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF
OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Secure your space today.

UCLUBOXFORD.COM

You're going to love it here.®



Cleaning counts: how to keep your home sparkling

LILY GISCLAIR
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

Countless children around the nation are blissfully unaware of the daily tasks their ever-doting mothers and fathers complete for them. They enter their room to discover freshly folded laundry resting on the ends of their beds and don't think twice as to where that laundry came from. These children grow into young adults and eventually move to the university of their choice. Unfortunately for them, their parents don't join them. The task of finding a first-time laundry machine, dishwasher or vacuum user at any college is almost too easy. You may recognize yourself in this group and require a small refresher on cleaning as you approach living in an apartment soon. If this is the case, you're in luck.

Although most are aware of the main tasks like washing the dishes, doing the laundry, sweeping and taking out the trash, many forget about things like dusting, cleaning the windows, clearing the counters and changing the bed sheets. These often-forgotten chores can be the difference between a well-kept apartment and an unclean one. A majority of college students will be sharing an apartment with their peers. If this is the case for you, this can either make your life a lot easier or potentially more difficult. To make sure your apartment is clean, it could help to form a cleaning agreement amongst your roommates right away. If the chores are divided, they can become substantially more manageable.

Start by meeting with your roommates and evenly dividing the daily tasks. One way to make this fair is to make a schedule where chores are rotated daily or weekly. This way nobody is singled out to do the "best" or "worst" chore. In addition to forming a cleaning plan, roommates should communicate with one another. If an individual is not cleaning up after themselves, or not carrying their own weight, all roommates should gather to have a non-confrontational honest conversation about each person's responsibilities, to avoid any potential stress or conflicts. For the individuals who have not had to worry about upkeep in the past, take it upon yourself to learn how to now. Go into this next semester with a positive outlook and be prepared to clean.



GRAPHIC: SEDLEY NORMAND / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

ELLIS FARESE
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

Decorating a new house or apartment can be a fun, invigorating way to personalize spaces and feel comfortable in a home. However, with limited time, space and budget constraints, it can be a challenge for college students to reflect their personal style successfully. Fortunately, there are ways for students to personalize a space without sacrificing valuable time or money. From DIY projects to budget-friendly decor ideas, this guide will explore a few options for college students who are eager to create an individualized home space. The first step of becoming your own design consultant is setting a budget. A budget will help you prioritize your spending. Decide what and how much you can afford and stick to it. After a budget is established, a great way to begin finding deals is to shop second hand. Hidden gems often linger around thrift stores and online marketplaces such as Facebook Marketplace. Easy updates like a fresh coat of paint or new hardware can take these used pieces to a new level. In addition to this, focusing on key pieces is essential to curating a personal style. When decorating on a budget, it is important to keep things simple. Search for versatile pieces that are timeless and will service you in the future. Stray away from trendy items that may be out-dated in a year. If you are having trouble deciding your style, neutrals are a great place to start. Classic basics that will stand the test of time will always be worthwhile. Instead of trying to decorate everything all at once, focus on areas that are most in need and can be transformed by key pieces. For example, a comfy sofa or statement art piece can help create a put-together feel in any room. Here are some shops to help inspire your decorating journey:

1. The Depot, Oxford

Shopping locally is a great place to start curating one's personal style. The Depot is an antique shop in Oxford and hosts a variety of booths with different sellers. The Depot provides manageable pricing on unique items that cannot be found anywhere else.

2. IKEA

IKEA is a popular option for furniture and home decor. IKEA also offers great kitchenware and storage options, which are key to elevating a home.

3. World Market

World Market is a great option for someone looking to expand their design palette. Offering items from around the world, one can find affordable furniture, lighting, rugs and decor items.

4. Society6

Society6 specializes in



GRAPHIC: SEDLEY NORMAND / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

providing artist-designed decor items. They offer an expansive collection of wall art, bedding and furniture. With such a large selection, Society6 makes it easy to find

something that fits your style and budget.

5. CB2

CB2 is a more expensive

option, but provides timeless, contemporary furniture and decor options that college students can hang on to as they move and grow older.

Now's the Right Time

Take advantage of the new 30% Solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) with PWRcell, Generac's fully-integrated solar + battery storage system. PWRcell will help you save money on your electric bill and be prepared for utility power outages. Plus it's compatible with most existing solar arrays.

SAVE 30%

WITH THE SOLAR TAX CREDIT*

Call to request a free quote!
(844) 355-7099

Purchase a PWRcell and Receive a Free Ecobee Smart Thermostat Enhanced – valued at over \$189!*

*Scan the QR code for promo terms and conditions.

^Consult your tax or legal professional for information regarding eligibility requirements for tax credits. Solar panels sold separately.

GENERAC PWRCELL

39456

FREE INTERNET

Qualify today for the Government Free Internet Program

YOU QUALIFY for Free Internet if you receive Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline and Tribal.

maxsip
CONNECTS

CALL TODAY (855) 215-7081

Bonus offer: 4G Android Tablet with one time co-pay of \$20

ACP program details can be found at www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-faq

39453