

April Community Newsletter

Tips for Living, Laughing and Loving Your Apartment Life

APARTMENT LIVING TIP

Conquer Closet Clutter

Storage space can present a challenge, especially when you're living in an apartment and can't make structural modifications. With a little creativity, you can take advantage of more of your closet space without making any permanent changes. The best solutions depend on your space and the type of items you're trying to store. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Double your shelf space by creating another layer: any type of legged platform will quickly and easily create a second shelf.
- Add a hanging shoe rack to the inside of your closet door: shoes that are taking up floor or shelf space can easily fit into an area you're not using for anything else.
- If clothing storage space is a problem, add a second bar: hanging the second rod from your existing rod makes this measure simple and damage-free. Or, buy a hanging sweater stacker or other storage to manage folded or off-season items.

SEASONAL RECIPE

Bright, Fresh, Flavor-Infused Drinks

Before guests arrive, make ice cubes from three or four different flavors of fruit juice, punch or other brightly-colored non-carbonated drinks. When you're ready to serve, add a mix of the frozen cubes to soda water, a clear citrus soda or clear mixed drink. The drink will change colors and flavors as the cubes gradually melt into it.

FUN APARTMENT

Decorate Just For You

Most of us make an effort to brighten up the areas where visitors sit, and even those visible when a delivery person knocks on the front door or we've thrown the curtains open to let in some sun. But those aren't the only areas that can benefit from a bit of brightening. Consider adding a splash of color to the inside of your coat closet door, or some artwork to the laundry nook.

You spend more time in your apartment than anyone else, so treat yourself to a bit of eye candy in the places you frequent when you're doing household chores, paying the bills and attending to other tasks that might not make up the most cheerful moments of your day. Whether it's your workout area, a hallway you pass down a dozen times a day or the corner you set up in to iron your work clothes, you may be surprised by how much a little aesthetic gift to yourself can brighten the area.

FUN FACT: Most cars have an arrow on the fuel gauge that tells you what side of the car the gas tank is on.

Live for the buzz!

COMMUNITY TIP

Don't Leave Your Laundry

Sticking close to your clothes in a shared laundry room is just good common sense, but it's also common courtesy. When you start a load of laundry and wander off to tend to some chores around your apartment or make a quick trip to the grocery store, you're not just risking your property; you're also risking inconveniencing a neighbor. You wouldn't want to have to sit and wait for someone else to transfer clothing from the washer to the dryer or retrieve dry clothes that had been sitting in the machine for half an hour, so don't put someone else in that position.

Make sure to start laundry when you have time to be attentive and keep it moving. And, keep common areas clean. Wipe up any spilled detergent or other mess, and keep your supplies neatly gathered so that you and your neighbors don't get in one another's way. That way, everyone can benefit from the convenience of having facilities onsite.

MY QUESTION

Should I Call Maintenance?

If you're asking yourself that question, the answer is probably yes. Many residents hesitate to call maintenance when small problems occur, because they don't want to "make a fuss" about a relatively small issue. Unfortunately, that well-intentioned delay can cause larger problems.

A minor issue in your apartment may be tied to a more serious one you can't see. For example, that small yellow spot that's forming on your ceiling may mean that the pipes above your apartment are leaking. The discoloration may be insignificant, but the damage that's occurring behind the scenes may not be. Only a professional can make that call, and that won't happen if you don't let management know about the problem.

In some cases, you may even be responsible for additional damage that occurs because you neglected a problem that could have been remedied earlier. When in doubt, err on the side of reporting the problem and let the experts decide if a repair is necessary.

