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#### HOUSING GUIDE The Battalion

## Think before signing lease

It's fun to be swept up in apartment searching. Unfortunately, many students often are too eager to sign a lease at their dream place without taking time to understand what exactly they are agreeing to at the moment of signing.

"Yes, we have deadlines on signing at a special price but it is important to be completely sure that you choose a place that fits all your needs before signing a lease," said Laura Salkowski, financial manager at a College Station housing complex. Too often, college students will rush into the decision to sign at a particular residency and then find they regret that decision.

There are many different housing options and students should look around at multiple properties. It is crucial not to just sign a lease at the first place toured. "Many people do not realize that signing a lease is

legally binding and find that getting out of their lease is really difficult," Salkowski said.

Before getting oneself in the sticky situation of having to get out of a lease after realizing it is not the right place, it is important that potential residents know what to listen for when touring a property. "There is a right and a wrong way to tour a property," said Tanner Austin, resident director of a housing complex.

It is important to listen to the specific details that the leasing agent or community assistant is saying about the property while on a tour. Understand the payments, prices, rules and regulations rather than just admiring the apartment setup and its amenities. "It is our job to tell tourists all the information they need to know, but it is their job to listen," Austin says.

LEASE ON PG. 6

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