



What Do the Ads Tell You?

Before making a decision on which each rental unit to visit, determine and compare the total costs—rent, any utility charges, and other possible costs, such as parking.

Call the number listed for a unit and find out needed information on the cost of the unit. Ask such questions:

- What is the address of the unit?

- What is included in the rent?

- What utilities does the tenant pay? What is the hook-up charge? Is there a deposit for utilities? Is it refundable when lease ends?

- How much have these costs been in the past?

Landlords should provide this information; however, it is the renter's responsibility to ask for it. If you have the address, you can get information on past usage by calling the utility company.

- What other costs could the tenant be expected to pay? (i.e. pet deposit, parking, garage, damage deposit, etc.)

For Activity 2: Use the answers to these questions to fill in **Handout 2** and compare costs.