

Apartment Search Checklist

Using this list can help you find a safe and healthy place to live. Don't rush: use this list to inspect your potential new apartment. Be careful and take your time.

FEATURE	NOTES
SAFETY	
<input type="checkbox"/> Are there sufficient safety features, including smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors? Look inside the apartment as well as in the hallways and in other common areas.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Are the locks sturdy? They should not be wobbly.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Do the doors open and close easily and fit well within the doorframe? <i>The hinges should be sturdy. This is especially important when inspecting doors that lead to the outside. The apartment should have a deadbolt on all outside doors.</i>	
PLUMBING	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check faucets, toilets and the pipes under kitchen cabinets for potential leaks in plumbing.	
<input type="checkbox"/> How is the water pressure and water temperature in the unit? <i>Turn on the faucets or shower to see how long it takes to get warm.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is there is a water heater in the apartment, or is the water heater shared among several apartments? <i>This will affect the amount of hot water that runs to the apartment.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is the water heater and furnace free of rust? <i>Look for rocks, stones or other debris on the outside of the heater or furnace. This debris or chipping may indicate leaks. These leaks could possibly indicate carbon monoxide problems.</i>	
ELECTRICAL	

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<input type="checkbox"/> Turn off and on all lighting inside the apartment to check for electrical shortages.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check the outlets in the apartment to make sure that they all work properly and there are no electrical problems.	
MAINTENANCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Do all appliances in the unit work properly? Are any damaged?	
<input type="checkbox"/> If there is not a washer or dryer in the unit, ask to see the common laundry area. <i>Make sure the common area is well-maintained and is well lit. Make sure that access to the common laundry area is limited to residents only.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is there any evidence of insects or rodents? <i>Look on the floor as well as inside cabinets, drawers and closets.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check for drafts by running your hand along the window frame.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Look up at the ceiling for any water damage. <i>This may indicate either a leak from outside or very careless upstairs neighbors. If there is discoloration, it may be a sign of mold.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is there any peeling paint or wallpaper? Do any of the walls show signs of cracking or repairs? <i>This may also indicate water seepage problems or may indicate a breach in the building foundation.</i>	