

Apartment Search Checklist

Consider the following when conducting your apartment search.

Expenses

Cost of monthly/weekly rent?
Cost of security deposit?
Do I have to put down first and last month's rent in addition?
Any utilities included (heat, electric, etc.)?
Are there fees to park?
Apartment furnished? If not, can I afford to furnish it?
Am I able to pay out of pocket monthly for expenses (rent, food, utilities, gas and insurance for car, recreational activities, etc.)?

Safety & Security

Are the door locks adequate (is there a deadbolt)?
Are there locks on the windows (especially basement and first floor units)?
Are the hallways and outside entrance well lit?
Is there a doorbell or intercom system?
Are there peepholes in the door(s)?
Is there an alarm system or security personnel?
Is there a working fire escape?
Are there at least 2 exits?
Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors?
Are there window treatments for privacy?

Kitchen

Is it large enough for a table and chairs?
Is the sink clean and drain properly?
Does the faucet work?
Is the stove/oven clean and in good condition?
Do the burners and oven work properly?
Are there adequate cabinets and countertops?
Is the floor in good condition?
Is there a vent fan?
Is there a dishwasher?
Is there a garbage disposal?
Are the refrigerator and freezer large enough?
Are there enough electrical outlets/ample wattage?

Heat

Can I control the heat?
Is the house/apartment insulated?
Are there storm windows?
Are there heat ducts or radiators in each room?

General

Is the apartment freshly painted?
Are there any water stains or peeling paint (ceiling, walls)?
Where is mail delivered?
Is there a yard/porch?
Is the structure sound?
Are pets allowed?
Does anything leak?
Adequate ventilation for every room?

Landlord/Property Owner

Is the landlord accessible and available?
Will s/he respond in a timely manner for repairs or maintenance?
What do tenants think about this person?
Do you have friends who rent/have rented from this person?
How long has s/he been a landlord?
Does s/he handle snow removal/lawn care?

Comfort & Convenience

What floor/level is the apartment on?
How far is my commute to campus/work?
Is there parking on site?
Is there laundry on site?
How much storage space will I have?
Will I have easy access to public transportation?
Are there nearby grocery and retail stores?
Sufficient trash/recycling receptacles provided?

Bathroom

Are the fixtures chipped, rusted or old?
Are the tiles loose, cracked or missing?
Do the faucets drip/leak?
Are there toilet paper holders, towel racks, and mirrors?
Is it well lit and well vented (fan)?
Will there be ample hot water?
How is the water pressure? (Turn on the sink, shower and flush the toilet to test)
If multiple apartment units, does each have its own hot water tank? (10 gallons per person is recommended)

Electrical

Is there easy access to the circuit breaker or fuse box?
Do all outlets and light switches work?
Are outlets grounded?

Neighborhood/Surrounding Area

Does the street seem welcoming and well-kept?
Have there been any crimes/burglaries?
Is the building on a main street/in a high-traffic area?
Are there any public parks, recreation areas?