

Housing Safety and Security Standards

Use the checklist below as a resource to assist in your search and decision process.

✓	Standard or Condition
	Landlord has no record of serious safety or security problems/complaints that have not been resolved in a timely and acceptable manner.
	Facility meets or exceeds local building and safety (e.g., fire) codes and ordinances and has adequate utility (e.g., electrical, water, natural gas and sewerage) services.
	Entry doors are sound and constructed of solid wood or metal.
	Entry doors are equipped with deadbolt locks.
	Main entry door is equipped with a peephole.
	Sliding glass doors onto patios or balconies are equipped with pins or bars to prevent break-ins.
	Locks are changed or re-keyed for each new resident.
	Windows are secured with locks (screens are desirable but optional).
	Curtains, shades, blinds or other such window treatments are required on all windows to ensure privacy.
	Kitchen, bathroom, and outdoor electrical outlets are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).
	All electrical outlets are grounded (three-prong plugs)
	All electrical receptacles and switches have unbroken plates.
	At least one smoke detector is located outside each unit's bedroom(s) as well as in common areas (e.g., hallways, laundry rooms, and basement or attic storage areas). All smoke detectors are operable at time of occupancy (i.e., fresh batteries have been installed or preferably, the detectors are hardwired into the electrical system-with back-up battery power).
	Carbon monoxide detectors are present in facilities with gas furnaces and/or water heaters. They are operable at time of occupancy.
	At least one fire extinguisher is available in each unit and in common areas (e.g., hallways, laundries and basement or attic storage areas). All fire extinguishers are properly charged and checked and serviced on a regular basis.
	Hallways, stairways, storage areas and laundry rooms are well lit at night.
	Trees, shrubs and other vegetation is trimmed and maintained below window height to prevent attackers or peeping toms from using them as hiding places.
	Parking areas have adequate lighting at night and afford a clear line of sight to main building entrances.
	Building exteriors have adequate security lighting.
	Residents have an emergency number they may call 24-7 to report lost or stolen keys, utility failures and for other such immediate emergency needs.
	Although not mandatory, security or intrusion alarm systems are advisable for the facility. Participants are encouraged to purchase portable security alarm systems if not provided by landlords.