

Apartment Safety and Security 101

CHECKING IT OUT Prompts

Moving away from home and into an apartment is exciting and a big step to becoming a responsible adult. This independence calls for applying real-life knowledge about safety and security to choosing a safe, secure first apartment. Before signing a rental agreement, it is important to check for safety and security in the surrounding area, the apartment building, and the apartment itself.

DIRECTIONS: Using the form below, create a checklist of the important safety and security features to look for before you sign a rental agreement. After listing each item on your chart describe the safety or security features you are looking for.

Activity Suggestions: Provide students with several examples of how to describe the safety or security features they include on their lists.

(1) Ask students to brainstorm before viewing the PowerPoint Presentation: *Apartment Safety and Security 101*. Student can tally the number of their ideas that were included in the presentation.

(2) Complete *Checking it Out* after the PowerPoint Presentation as a summary activity.

The Apartment Building	
1	SECURITY LIGHTING at the building entrances should be adequate to safely enter the building and the apartment
2	STREETLIGHTS around the building, should be adequate to illuminate the area at night
3	SECURITY CAMERAS in strategic locations, ask if they are live and how long the film is saved
4	CRIME CHECK Go online or call local law enforcement for a summary of recent crime in the neighborhood – this will detail the security of your apartment and your vehicle
5	FIRE ALARMS and/or sprinkler system, should be operational in the apartment building common areas and hallways
6	FIRE ESCAPE route posted in hallways and common areas
7	EXITS from the building exits are obvious and clearly marked
8	CELL PHONE RECEPTION is available from your carrier in and around your apartment and apartment building
9	SMOKE DETECTORS visible in common areas and hallways
10	
The Grounds and Common Areas	
1	SECURITY LIGHTING in the parking area that illuminates the entire lot
2	LOCKS on shared facilities such as the laundry room or workout area

Apartment Safety and Security 101

3	MAIL and package delivery are secure spaces	
4	STORAGE areas have adequate lighting, are secured by lock and key	
5	SECURITY CAMERAS in strategic locations, and ask if they are live and how long the film is saved	
6	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION is a short and safe walk from the apartment	
7		
8		
9		
10		

The Apartment

1	DEAD BOLT LOCKS on the doors of the apartment provide the best security	
2	WINDOW LOCKS should be operational on all windows, and included in the fire escape plan	
3	SECURITY BARS on sliding glass doors provide an extra measure of personal safety	
4	PEEPHOLE in the front door allows the occupant to view persons knocking at the door	
5	CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS since CO cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted CO, it is important to have a warning system	
6	SMOKE DETECTORS inside every bedroom and outside of every sleeping area	
7	TWO EXITS FROM EVERY ROOM are part of every fire escape plan; evaluate the potential for escape from your apartment	
8	FIRE EXTINGUISHER an all-purpose extinguisher should be mounted close to an exit	
9	FUSE BOX that is easily accessible and clearly labeled	
10	ELECTRICAL OUTLETS should be adequate for use in every room, this helps avoid or minimize the use of extension cords	