

25 Questions to Ask BEFORE You Sign a Rental Agreement

1. Are smoke alarms installed? Working?
2. How old are the smoke alarms?
3. How often are the smoke alarms checked?
4. When were the smoke alarm batteries last changed?
5. Are there at least two ways to exit your living space and your building?
6. Are exits marked and free from obstruction?
7. Are hallway doors closed and not propped open?
8. Do the upper floors have a fire escape or ladder available for each bedroom? (If there are multiple floors)
9. Are the doors fire rated?
10. Are the fire extinguishers available? Working?
11. Were the fire extinguishers inspected within the last year?
12. Is a sprinkler system installed?
13. Is the electrical wiring adequate? What is the electrical panel rated (200 amps or above)?
14. Are there ground fault interrupters (GFIs) in the bathroom and kitchen?
15. Is the building regularly inspected by the fire department for safety?
16. What is the owner's policy and method for correcting safety problems in the building?
17. Has there ever been a fire in this building? If so, identify the cause.
18. Does the rental have a propane or electric stove/oven?
19. Do you know how to use appliance(s) correctly?
20. Where is the nearest fire hydrant on the street? Who is responsible for keeping it cleared in the winter?
21. Is the owner a member in good standing in a landlord/tenant association or other housing association?
22. Has the city received any safety complaints regarding this building?
23. Do the windows easily open?
24. If the windows are secured with security bars, is there a quick release from the inside?
25. If there are dead bolt locks on doors, can you open without a key?



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