



RESIDENTIAL CHECKLIST

The following checklist accounts for fire and life safety covering structural issues, egress, and equipment such as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and fire escapes. Use this list to assess your new or potential residence and discuss any discrepancies with your landlord, housing director, or host family. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need help finding equipment.

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Smoke detectors are installed and working** (minimum of one located adjacent to each sleeping area). If not, either contact your landlord about installing one or install one yourself. Test smoke detectors on a monthly basis if a testing button is present. "Chirping" indicates a low battery. We recommend getting a smoke detector with a 10-year lithium battery and an emergency light.

Ionic or Photoelectric?

There are two types of smoke alarms available; ionic and photoelectric. According to the Center for Campus Fire Safety, "photoelectric smoke alarms generally respond faster to smoldering smoke conditions and ionization smoke alarms generally respond faster to flaming fire conditions, both types provide adequate protection against fire." Combination models are also available. Ionic smoke detectors are prohibited in some countries due to the small amount of radiation they emit. Check which kind of smoke detector is most appropriate for your residence and pack it when you travel.

- Fire extinguishers are present and charged.** Instructional videos are available online. If you are trained to use a fire extinguisher it can be a valuable safety tool for extinguishing small fires before they get out of hand. If you don't know how to use an extinguisher, or if the fire seems too large, don't try to extinguish it, just get out!
- There are two exits from any room.** If you live above the first floor, make sure your residence has an accessible fire escape ladder or purchase a portable escape ladder. There are many different models of fireproof compact escape ladders in various lengths. Contact us if you need help finding one that's right for you. Develop an escape plan and practice it.
- Are fire alarms and exit signs visible (in multi-unit apartment buildings)?
- Are carbon monoxide detectors installed and working?

EXITS AND EXTERIORS

- The building exterior and adjacent properties are clean and well maintained
- All doors, stairs and fire escapes are unobstructed and in good condition
- There are at least two ways out from any level or floor of the building
- The building address is visible and clearly marked (for emergency responders)
- Outdoor areas are free of flammable debris and furniture designed for interior use
- Flammable liquids are not stored in building
- Exit signs and emergency lights are in place and working properly

Tip: *If you live above the seventh floor of an apartment building, fire truck ladders will not be able to reach you. Buildings off of the street may also be difficult for emergency responders to reach.*

LIVING ROOM AND COMMON AREAS

- All furniture, linens, and draperies are made of fire-resistant material
- All interior walls and ceilings are in good condition
- All exit doors are unobstructed and providing sufficient means of egress
- Electric outlets on each wall have covers and are in good condition
- All wall electrical switches work easily (not sparking or warm to touch) and light fixtures work properly
- Hallways and common areas are illuminated
- Smoke detectors are in each hallway leading to bedrooms
- Carbon monoxide detectors are located on each floor containing bedrooms
- Windows operate easily and without bars or barriers
- All exit routes are clear and doors work freely
- Exit doors free of locking devices that may interfere with exiting (no keys required)
- Dryers, chimneys, wood stoves and all home heating systems should be professionally inspected and cleaned annually

KITCHEN

- Electric outlets on each wall have covers and are in good condition
- All wall electrical switches work easily (not sparking or warm to touch); light fixtures work properly
- Appliances provided appear to be clean and in good working condition
- Appliance electrical cords are in good condition
- Kitchen exhaust and kitchen surfaces are free of grease
- Hot and cold water turns on and off without leaks
- Sink works properly (no leaks under sink)
- Windows operate easily, exit route is clear, doors work freely

BEDROOM

- Mattress, furniture, linens, and drapery is made of fire-resistant material
- Interior walls, ceiling and floor are in good condition (no signs of leaks)
- Outlets have covers and are in good condition
- All wall electrical switches work easily (not sparking or warm to touch); light fixtures work properly
- Smoke detector is present near bedroom and operating (press button to test)
- At least one window operates easily and is not obstructed by bars
- Door works freely, latches and locks are functional (no keys required to exit)

Tip: *NEVER smoke in bed!*