CHECK IT OUT

A guide to choosing a safe place to live.

Washington University in St. Louis

Other items to check:

- Is the heating system capable of heating all rooms?
- Are all gas appliances free of unusual odors?
- Do all drains flow freely without leaking (check for water-stained ceilings)?
- Are there functional smoke detectors?
- Is there a fire extinguisher?
- Is there a safe approach where landscaping or other obstacles do not afford hiding places?
- Can entrance be clearly observed from the street by neighbors or the police?
- Is there adequate lighting in the parking areas?
- Is there adequate parking? Is it off-street parking?
- Is the property properly lit at night?

If you have further questions about residential security, please call our Crime Prevention Specialist at: 935-5084
Choosing a safe place to live off-campus can be an intimidating process. There’s a lot to consider (cost, location, access to transportation, etc.), but nothing is more important than your personal safety. The questions in this guide have been developed to help you in the apartment selection process. Before making your final selection, we recommend you tour the apartment complex with your prospective landlord and ask these questions. Answering “yes” to each of these questions is no guarantee that your apartment will be problem-free, but it should give you a reasonable sense of security.

**Building Identification**
- Is the building address clearly visible, with at least three inch numbers to help emergency services find the residence?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐

**Doors & Locks**
- Do each of the exterior doors appear to be structurally sound and securely anchored?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐
- Does the front door have a peephole?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐
- Does the exterior door have a one inch deadbolt lock?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐
- Are the door locks at least 40 inches from any glass?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐
- If there is a sliding glass door, can the sliding panel be secured so that it cannot be taken out of its track?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐

**Windows**
- Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐
- Do windows have screens that lock from inside?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐
- If there are windows that open with the use of a crank, can they only be opened from the inside and not pulled open from the outside? (Also check to make sure window panels can’t be removed without breaking.)
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐
- Are exterior areas of windows free from concealing structures and landscapes?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐

**Lighting**
- Is the exterior and entrance lit with at least a 40-watt light?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐
- If this is a multi-unit dwelling, are hallways and stairs well lit?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐

**Interior Condition**
- Are the walls and ceilings in good repair and free from loose or flaking plaster and peeling paint?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐
- Are the floors sound and in good repair?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐
- Do all light fixtures operate properly?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐
- Are all wires connected and in good condition?
  - Yes ☑️ No ☐