



IUPUI

OFFICE OF STUDENT
ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

What Should I Look For in Off-Campus Housing?

Off-Campus Housing Safety Checklist

Choosing to live off campus is a decision that will have an impact on your college experience. The appeal of living on your own is enhanced by the opportunities it presents for more privacy and more personal space as well as a greater sense of freedom. However, it is important to identify and understand the responsibilities of living off campus and to be prepared to handle a range of added tasks, such as cooking, cleaning, and budgeting. Included below is a list of items we suggest you consider when looking for an apartment off campus.

BASICS

- Is campus and other conveniences close enough for your wants/needs?
- Is this the type of housing you are looking for? (apartment complex, house, studio, etc.)
- Are rent and utilities affordable?
- Can you get the length of a lease you will need?
- Can you have pets? (if applicable)

SAFETY

- Will you feel safe here, day and night?
- Does exterior lighting exist? (street lights, porch lights, garage/alley, etc.)
- Are the basement and storage areas locked?
- Are there bars on the windows, if on first floor?
- Is the garage/parking secure?
- Do smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors work?
- Are there locks on the windows?
- Will the door/key locks be changed before I move in?
- Are there peepholes at the front door(s)?
- Is there a locked lobby? (if applicable)
- Can my mailbox be locked?
- Are there deadbolts on all doors?
- Are there fire extinguishers available?
- Are there ceiling sprinklers?

AMENITIES

- Is the electrical wiring up to code?
- Do all outlets work?
- Is the water pressure to your liking?
- Does each unit have its own thermostat to control heat?

NOISE

- Is there a noise complaint problem in this area

STRUCTURE

- Is rental unit handicapped accessible?
- Are there at least two entrances to the unit?
- Is painting allowed? Must I repaint after lease my is up?

OTHER

Property Name _____
 Apartment Address _____
 Rent \$ _____
 Landlord's Name and Phone # _____

- How many days notice is needed for non-renewal of my lease?
- Is this a residency primarily consisting of students? If not, does that matter to you?
- Is there adequate closet space?

KITCHEN

- Is it large enough to eat in?
- Is the sink damaged, rusted, and/or scratched?
- Does the sink drain?
- Does the oven work properly?
- Is there adequate countertop space?
- Is there a dishwasher and garbage disposal?

BATHROOM/PLUMBING

- Is the hower in good condition?
- Is there a shower curtain rod?
- Is there a medicine cabinet/mirror/towel racks?
- Is there a toilet tissue holder?
- Does each apartment have its own hot water tank?

INFORMATION ABOUT THE APARTMENT AND LANDLORD

- Is the property owner generally available?
- Will he/she respond promptly when repairs and maintenance are needed?
- Ask other tenants about the property owner.