

Questions to Ask Before Moving in or Signing a Lease

Are working smoke alarms installed? (Preferably in each bedroom, interconnected to sound all if any one detects smoke)

Are there at least two ways to exit your bedroom and your building?

Do the upper floors of the building have at least two interior stairs, or a fire escape?

Is a sprinkler system installed and maintained?

Are the existing electrical outlets adequate for all of the appliances and equipment that you are bringing – without the need for extension cords?

Are there EXIT signs in the building hallways to indicate accessible escape routes?

Does the building have a fire alarm system installed and maintained?

Has the buildings heating system been inspected recently (in the last year)?

Is the building address clearly posted to allow emergency services to find you quickly in the event of an emergency?

Does the sprinkler system or fire alarm system send a signal to the local fire department?

If you are uncomfortable with the answer to any of these questions, ask to have the problem fixed or consider looking for a new place to live.

Remember, no house or apartment is worth your life.