

During an apartment search, there are a lot of individual factors you need to check at each community you visit. For one, you need to make sure the apartments have all of the amenities you need to live comfortably. You also need to check and see if you can afford the rent with your current budget. Once you've looked at a good amount of apartments, use this checklist to narrow down your choices.

Apartment Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Budget & Policies

- Review the rent for the apartment.
Can you reasonably afford it on your current budget?
- Check the income requirements. Do you meet them?
- Does the community have a strict guest policy?
- Do you need to have renter's insurance to move in?
 - If so, do you have renter's insurance?

The Apartment Unit

- Are utilities included with the apartment's rent?
- Walk around the apartment for a bit.
Do you think there is enough space to work with?
- Test the electrical outlets. Do they work properly?
- Does the apartment have air conditioning?
- Are there washers and dryers available inside the unit?

The Apartment Unit

- Does the apartment have a heating system?
- In the kitchen, is there a set of kitchen appliances set up for you to use?

Around the Community

- Be sure to get a look at the common areas outside the apartments.
Are they well-kept?
- Is extra storage space available at the community?
- Get a feel for the noise level.
Do you think it is suitable for your lifestyle?
- Is there a swimming pool for residents to use?
- Are there tennis courts or other places to play sports?
- Does the community offer a fitness center?

Pet-Friendliness

- Does this community allow residents to bring pets?
- Is there an additional charge for bringing pets?
 - If so, can you reasonably afford it?
- Are pet-friendly amenities offered? (Like a dog salon, for example)

Transportation

- Was the drive to the apartment community easy and quick?
- Check the prices on gas close by.
Do you think you will be able to afford them over a long period of time?
- Is the traffic in the local area easy to manage during the day?
- Are there bus stops and train stations nearby?
 - If so, are they easy to get to?
- Is there an airport close by?
This is important if you travel out of state often.

Local Shops, Restaurants, & More

- Take a drive around the area.
Is there a wide selection of restaurants in the surrounding area?
- Are there plenty of stores and shopping centers for you to visit?
- In the case of a medical emergency, is there a hospital close by?
- Are there parks and other fun places to visit in the general area?