

LifeSmarts U Health and Safety Lesson

Apartment Safety: Checking It Out ACTIVITY KEY

Moving away from home and into an apartment is exciting and a big step to becoming a responsible adult. This independence calls for applying real-life knowledge about safety and security to choosing a safe, secure first apartment. Before signing a rental agreement, it is important to check for safety and security in the surrounding area, the apartment building, and the apartment itself.

Directions:

Using the form below, create a checklist of the important safety and security features to look for before you sign a rental agreement. After listing each item on your chart describe the safety or security features you are looking for.

Activity Suggestions: Provide students with several examples of how to describe the safety or security features they include on their lists.

1. Ask students to brainstorm before viewing the PowerPoint Presentation *Apartment Safety and Security 101* — Students can tally the number of their ideas that were included in the presentation.
2. Use the *Checking it Out Activity* as a summary activity after viewing the PowerPoint Presentation.

The Apartment Building and Common Areas

Example: SECURITY LIGHTING at the building entrances should be adequate to safely enter the building and the apartment

1	SECURITY LIGHTING at the building entrances should be adequate to safely enter the building and the apartment	
2	STREETLIGHTS around the building, should be adequate to illuminate the area at night	
3	SECURITY CAMERAS in strategic locations, ask if they are live and how long the film is saved	
4	CRIME CHECK Go online or call local law enforcement for a summary of recent crime in the neighborhood – this will detail the security of your apartment and your vehicle	
5	FIRE ALARMS and/or sprinkler system, should be operational in the apartment building common areas and hallways	
6	FIRE ESCAPE route posted in hallways and common areas	
7	EXITS from the building exits are obvious and clearly marked	
8	CELL PHONE RECEPTION is available from your carrier in and around your apartment and apartment building	



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Apartment Safety: Checking It Out Activity

9	SMOKE DETECTORS visible in common areas and hallways	
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The Grounds and Common Areas

Example: SECURITY CAMERAS in strategic locations. Also, ask if they are live and how long the recordings are saved

1	SECURITY CAMERAS in strategic locations. Also, ask if they are live and how long the recordings are saved	
2	SECURITY LIGHTING in the parking area that illuminates the entire lot	
3	LOCKS on shared facilities such as the laundry room or workout area	
4	MAIL and package delivery are secure spaces	
5	STORAGE areas have adequate lighting, are secured by lock and key	
6	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION is a short and safe walk from the apartment	

The Apartment

Example: CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS since CO cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted CO, it is important to have a warning system

1	CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS since CO cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted CO, it is important to have a warning system	
2	DEAD BOLT LOCKS on the doors of the apartment provide the best security	
3	WINDOW LOCKS should be operational on all windows, and included in the fire escape plan	
4	SECURITY BARS on sliding glass doors provide an extra measure of personal safety	
5	PEEPHOLE in the front door allows the occupant to view persons knocking at the door	



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Apartment Safety: Checking It Out Activity

6	SMOKE DETECTORS inside every bedroom and outside of every sleeping area	
7	TWO EXITS FROM EVERY ROOM are part of every fire escape plan; evaluate the potential for escape from your apartment	
8	FIRE EXTINGUISHER an all-purpose extinguisher should be mounted close to an exit	
9	FUSE BOX that is easily accessible and clearly labeled	
10	ELECTRICAL OUTLETS should be adequate for use in every room, this helps avoid or minimize the use of extension cords	

