

# Secure Housing Before Arriving Information Checklist

The OFSIL suggests you obtain specific information to help make the best possible housing decision. The information we suggest you seek focuses on basic health and safety issues as well as some matters of personal comfort. Remember, these are guidelines. You know your needs better than anyone, so modify the list to suit your needs.

Recommendation:	Possible sources of information	Comments
Locate address on a map	internet	
Request a floor plan for the rental	landlord	
Locate emergency evacuation routes for the building	landlord	
What is the age of the building?	landlord	
Check the Ithaca City Police Crime log for any crimes in the vicinity of the rental.	<a href="http://www.ci.ithaca.ny.us/">http://www.ci.ithaca.ny.us/</a>	
What measures are taken toward personal and property security? Lighted entries? Adequate external lighting?	landlord or other tenants	
Does the property have functioning smoke and CO detectors?	landlord	
Are any utilities included in the rent? (heat, electric, hot water, internet, cable television, trash disposal) Which utilities are included? Which are not?	landlord or internet	
Are there separate meters? (water, electric, etc.)	landlord	
What is the heat source? (electric, forced air, radiators, hot water) Is there a separate source and control for the rental?	landlord	
Who pays for the heat? Who controls the temperature?	landlord or internet	
Is the rental well insulated? Does the rental have storm windows?	landlord	
Is there reliably "good" water pressure?	landlord or other tenants	

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Adequate supply of hot water? Temperature?	landlord or other tenants	
Is the rental in the basement of a building? Is the basement humid?	landlord	
Has the building been tested for Radon?	landlord	
Did former tenant(s) smoke?	landlord	
Did former tenant(s) have cats? Dogs? (pets can cause odors; are you allergic?; dogs can be noisy)	landlord other tenants	
What is the character of the neighborhood? (Predominantly grad student housing? undergrad residential?)	landlord, internet, other tenants	
Is the rental in or near a business district?	landlord, internet, other tenants	
What can reasonably be expected as far as neighborhood noise?	landlord, other tenants	
Is it a noisy building? i.e. Is a washing machine or television or baby crib on the opposite side of the bedroom wall?	landlord, other tenants	
What about smells? (Auto exhaust from the street, local restaurant fumes, a nearby dumpster, neighbor's dog pen, open rubbish burning?, etc.)	landlord, other tenants	
Ask about any history of nuisances (noise, rodents, insects, etc.)	landlord, other tenants	
Is the rental in the city of Ithaca?	Landlord, Ithaca Building Dept.	
If it is, does it have a Certificate of Compliance from the Ithaca City Building Department?	landlord, <a href="http://www.ci.ithaca.ny.us/">http://www.ci.ithaca.ny.us/</a>	
Will the rental be cleaned prior to move in? Carpets shampooed? Stove and refrigerator cleaned? Bathroom? Kitchen? Mattresses?	landlord	
Misc.		