

Questions to ask when renting:

Take this with you when you are looking at apartments

General

- How much is the rent?
- Do they need a security deposit? How much?
- Is there an application or background check fee?
- Do they need first month's rent? How about last month's rent?
- How long is the lease?
- What is the penalty for terminating the lease early?
- Is there an application fee? How much?
- Are utilities included?
- What are the average cost of utilities?
- Can you sublet?
- Who does apartment maintenance and how do they handle it? Are they on call 24/7?
- Is the apartment cable and internet ready?
- Are pets allowed? Is there a separate fee?

The Apartment Building/Apartment

- Central Air? Radiators? Electric Heat? In wall AC? AC at all?
- Elevator?
- Smoke alarms?
- Sprinklers?
- Are the windows drafty?
- What condition are the floors in? Is the carpet soft/clean? Is the hardwood splintering?
- Is there enough closet space?
- Can you control the heat?
- Is there a screen door slide on the balcony?
- Does the slider lock securely?
- Is there a peep hole on the door?
- How do you let someone into the building?
- Can you monitor the front door / lobby from the apartment?
- Can you paint the walls?
- Do they allow pets? How about fish tanks? Is there a pet fee?
- Do they allow water beds?
- Is there a storage room? How big? How much does it cost?
- Is there laundry in the building/complex?
- How and where are UPS/FedEx deliveries left?
- Will your couch fit through the door?
- How about your box spring?

Kitchen

- Gas or Electric Stove?
- Kitchen sink disposal?
- Microwave included in kitchen?
- How old are the appliances?

Bathroom

- Is there a bathtub or just shower?
- Does the bathroom vent effectively?
- Are there enough towel racks in the bathroom?
- Is there enough shelf space in the bathroom?
- Are the vanity lights bright enough to shave cleanly / apply makeup effectively?

Home Office

- Are there enough outlets to plug stuff in?
- Is broadband/DSL available?
- What cable company services the city?

Parking

- Is parking included?
- How much for a parking spot?
- Is it assigned?
- Permit from city required to park?
- What about guest parking?
- Who plows the snow?

Neighborhood

- Do you get cell phone reception?
- Car insurance rates higher/lower?
- When is trash pickup?
- Near public transportation?
- Near a grocery store?
- Is it easy to get to a highway?
- What are the traffic patterns during rush hour?
- Are there good take-out places nearby?
- Where is the nearest Laundromat?

Potential Nuisances

- How much noise comes through the walls?
- Do headlights come in the windows from passing traffic?

- Do street lights shine in the bedroom windows?
- Can you hear people in the hallway?
- Can you hear the elevator?
- What are the other tenants like?
- How noisy are they?
- Do they have children?
- Can you hear traffic from nearby roads/highways?
- Are there bugs?
- Is the building old and require constant maintenance?
- Do the people with the balcony below/above/next to the apartment smoke? Does that smoke come into the apartment?
- Is the apartment on a street that is a commuters' shortcut?

This was taken from: <http://www.degraeve.com/reference/questions-to-ask-before-renting.php>