



Fire Safety Awareness for Off-Campus Housing

Loyola University Maryland is committed to the safety of our students living on and off campus. In an effort to reach out to the members of the University community who choose to live off campus, we ask that you take a moment to review these helpful questions from the American Society of Safety Engineers while looking at your living options. Personnel from The Department of Environmental Health and Safety would be happy to review these with you and answer any questions that you may have regarding fire safety issues. Please call 410-617-1120 to talk to us before you sign your lease!

Questions to ask before you sign a rental agreement for off-campus housing:

1. Are smoke alarms installed and working?
2. Is there a carbon monoxide alarm installed outside of sleeping areas?
3. How often are the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms checked and batteries changed (at least every six months)?
4. Are there at least two ways to exit the living space and the building?
5. Are exits clearly marked where necessary and free from obstruction?
6. Do the upper floors have a fire escape or ladder available for each bedroom?
7. Are fire extinguishers available with a current inspection tag?
8. Is there a sprinkler system installed?
9. Are 3-prong (grounded) electrical outlets installed?
10. Are there ground fault interrupters (GFIs) in the bathroom and kitchen?
11. Do the windows easily open?
12. If the windows are secured with security bars, is there a quick release from the inside?
13. If there are dead bolt locks on doors, can they be opened without a key from the inside?
14. Is the building regularly inspected by the local fire department or city housing inspector?
15. What is the landlord's policy and method for correcting safety problems in the building?
16. Has there ever been a fire in this building? If so, what was the cause?
17. Request a walkthrough of the appliances so you know how to properly use them.
18. Where is the nearest fire hydrant on the street? Who is responsible for keeping it cleared in the winter?
19. Has the University received any safety complaints regarding this building?

We also ask that you recognize the hazards of smoking, using candles and incense and overburdening electrical outlets and extension cords. Cooking should never be left unattended and always turn off all burners and your oven whenever you leave your apartment.

QUESTIONS? Contact the Environmental Health and Safety Department at (410) 617-1120 or e-mail [EHS with Questions](#).