

Safety

As in all countries, some areas of the United States are safer than others. The safety and well-being of you and your family should remain a priority when you are making a decision about where to live. Many city police departments publish online statistics of the criminal activity in various neighborhoods. When you are considering a specific apartment complex, check online for neighborhood safety ratings.

When looking at the apartment or rental home, pay attention to the surroundings. If you have a child, visit the park or playground and verify that the equipment is age-appropriate and in good condition. If there is a neighborhood swimming pool, check that it is clean and maintained daily, as well as if there is a gate with a strong lock mechanism which would prevent children from entering the area by themselves.

Take a look around your neighborhood. Are there working lights in the parking area, near the mailboxes, and on the stairwells? Other safety checks you should make around the home itself include ensuring that all of the doors and windows lock securely, and that there are working smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, and a fire sprinkler system.

If you feel comfortable doing so, speak with the residents in the building or the surrounding neighbors about their feelings on safety and crime in the area. Are there any neighborhood watch organizations that you can join or are there building personnel who monitor the entrances? If your building has strict rules about admittance, make sure that all of your dependents are cleared. This could mean purchasing extra security keys or entering them into the residence database. It is important that your dependents feel safe and at home while you are away.

Children's Safety

There are a number of things that you can do around the house to make sure that it is a safe environment for young children. "Baby-proofing" or "child-proofing" a home is when you take proactive measure to place dangerous items, such as knives and cleaning products, out of children's reach. You can purchase items from baby stores or discount stores that will keep children out of the kitchen or laundry cabinets, off of the stairs and away from electrical sockets and heavy appliances.