

This tool is yours to keep. It does NOT need to be returned.



Home Safety Assessment For Renters

This tool is to help you make your home safer for you and your family. To complete this tool, take it to each room of your house and answer the questions. Skip any questions that don't apply to your home. At the end there will be a place to make a list of next steps to take to make your house safer for everyone living there.

✓ This checkmark means an easy, low-cost fix you can make immediately.

 This means something you can ask your landlord to fix.

 This dollar sign means a fix that may cost some money and that your landlord probably won't fix.

Family Members Living in Home



Are there any children living in your house?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Does anyone in your house have asthma or breathing problems?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

 *If you have children under the age of five, look for suggestions marked with this sign.*

 *If anyone in your household has asthma or breathing problems, pay attention to this sign.*

 *If anyone in your household has difficulty getting around (physical disability, difficulty walking, balance issues), pay attention to this sign.*

General Household



Low Concern

Medium Concern

High Concern

When was your home built?	<input type="checkbox"/> After 1978	<input type="checkbox"/> 1951-1978	<input type="checkbox"/> Before 1951
Is there any chipped or peeling paint in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are your emergency contact phone numbers in a place they are easy to get to?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there any smokers in your house?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Is there a working smoke detector in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there a fire extinguisher in your house?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there a working carbon monoxide detector in your house?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
How do you heat your home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric/furnace	<input type="checkbox"/> Space heater	<input type="checkbox"/> Fireplace, stove, oven
If you use a space heater, what kind is it?	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil-filled	<input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic	<input type="checkbox"/> Open coils
Are there any broken windows in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are there tight fitting screens on all of your windows?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there large cracks/holes in the floor or walls?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are there doormats at the doors to your home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you keep cleaning supplies, chemicals and pesticides up high and away from children in their original containers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have any leaking pipes in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Does your dryer vent to the outside?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, or Don't have dryer		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you store medications up high and away from children in their original packages?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is your hot water heater set to the middle (or lower) setting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No



Store cleaning supplies and chemicals in air-tight containers up and away and out of the reach of children.



Keep medications up and away and out of the reach of children and in their original containers.



Set hot water heater to the middle setting or lower (120 degrees).



Vacuum carpet and rugs at least once a week.



Put all ashtrays and a comfortable chair outside so smokers can smoke outside.

Additional detailed recommendations for the entire house are listed on the next page.

Additional Detailed Recommendations for the Entire Home.



Keep space heaters where children cannot touch them and away from anything that might catch on fire.

- ✓ *Keep a list of important emergency contact phone numbers (poison control 1-800-222-1222, doctor, family members) in a place you can easily find them, such as on the refrigerator.*
- ✓ *Test the batteries in your smoke detector once a month.*
- ✓ *Throw away unused/expired medications in the trash.*



Place doormats at the entrances to your home.



Buy a carbon monoxide detector.



Buy a fire extinguisher.



Buy a ceramic or oil-filled space heater to replace open-coil heaters.



Buy tight fitting screens for all windows.



Buy a kit to test your home for radon.



Replace light bulbs with CFL bulbs, which do not get hot and save money.



Ask your landlord to install a smoke detector near the door to each bedroom. (This is required by law).



Ask your landlord to fix any broken windows or large holes/cracks in the walls or floor.



Ask your landlord to fix peeling or flaking paint if home was built before 1978.

(Make sure a lead paint specialist is called).



Ask your landlord to fix leaky pipes.



Ask your landlord to have the dryer vented outside.

Living Room



Low Concern

Medium Concern

High Concern

If your home was built before 1978, is there any chipped or peeling paint?	<input type="checkbox"/> No or House built after 1978	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Is it hard to move around the living room because there is so much clutter on the floor or against the walls?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are there cords or wires running across the floor in the room?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are all electrical outlets covered?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there wet or moldy carpet (or a rug) in the room?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
How often do you vacuum the living space?	<input type="checkbox"/> Once a week or more	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 times per month
Are there any large cracks or holes in the floor/walls?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Do you see any green, black, grey, white or brown growth or smell a musty odor?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes



If you have small children, use outlet covers in all your electrical outlets.



Keep space heaters where kids cannot touch them and away from anything that might catch on fire.



Vacuum carpet and rugs at least once a week.

- ✓ *Remove clutter from living room.*
- ✓ *Move cords alongside walls or use duct tape to tape to floor to prevent tripping and falls.*
- ✓ *Use a mixture of water and detergent to clean moldy surfaces. Make sure to dry well.*
- ✓ *If the home was built before 1978, cover any chipping/flaking paint with duct tape (also see landlord below).*



Buy milk crates or other plastic storage to keep toys and clutter organized.



Buy a ceramic or oil-filled space heater.



Ask your landlord to fix any holes and cracks in the floor or walls.



Ask your landlord to clean or fix any mold growth.



Ask your landlord to clean or remove carpeting that is moldy or damaged.

Kitchen



Low Concern

Medium Concern

High Concern

Do you ever use your oven to heat your home?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Is there a hood with a working fan in your kitchen?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, vents outside	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, vents inside	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does your kitchen have a window with a tight fitting screen?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Window, no screen	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there a working refrigerator in the kitchen?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you keep all food either refrigerated or in air-tight containers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is your trash kept tightly covered?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you see any green, black, grey, white or brown growth or smell a musty odor?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Do you see any bugs (roaches, ants, etc.) or droppings from mice or rats?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Safer Heating:

 If you use your oven to heat your home, buy a ceramic or oil-filled space heater.

Less Moisture:

- ✓ Use fan or open window while cooking.
- ✓ Cover pots while cooking on stove, especially when boiling water.
- ✓ Use a mixture of water and detergent to clean moldy surfaces. Make sure to dry well.
- ✓ Clean coils of refrigerator with a brush or vacuum.

  Ask your landlord about fixing any mold growth.

Pest Control:

- ✓ Wash dishes immediately after eating.
- ✓ Seal all food or keep it in the refrigerator.
- ✓ Clean up crumbs or spilled food right away.
- ✓ Buy air tight containers to store food.

  Ask your landlord to have your home treated for pests if this is included in your rental contract.

 Call a pest control company to treat your home for pests if not included in your rental contract.

Bedrooms



If you have more than three bedrooms,
make two copies of this page & the next.

Low Concern

Medium
Concern

High Concern

Is t mattress on the floor?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Is there wet or damp carpet in the room?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Do you see any green, black, grey, white or brown growth or smell a musty odor?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Is there a smoke detector outside each room with working batteries inside?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is it difficult to move around the room because there is so much clutter on the floor?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are any of the windows in the bedroom broken?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Are there tight fitting screens on all the windows?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are all electric outlets covered?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Bedrooms Continued...

		Low Concern	Medium Concern	High Concern
How often do you wash your sheets and pillowcases?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1x/week or more	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3x/month	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1x/month
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1x/week or more	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3x/month	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1x/month
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1x/week or more	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3x/month	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1x/month
How often do you vacuum?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1x/week or more	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3x/month	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1x/month
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1x/week or more	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3x/month	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1x/month
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1x/week or more	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3x/month	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1x/month
Do you see any bugs (roaches, ants, etc.) or droppings from mice or rats?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Is there chipping or flaking paint in the bedroom?	Bedroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bedroom 3	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes



If you have small children, use outlet covers in all your electrical outlets.



If a family member has allergies, vacuum and change the sheets and pillow cases at least once a week.



Take stuffed animals out of the bedroom if your child has asthma or breathing problems.

- ✓ *Check smoke detectors once a month and replace the batteries if needed.*
- ✓ *Keep the bedroom clutter free to make it easier to clean and keep away bugs.*
- ✓ *Use a mixture of water and detergent to clean moldy surfaces. Make sure to dry well.*
- ✓ *If the home was built before 1978, cover any chipping/flaking paint with duct tape (also see landlord below).*



Raise mattress off the floor.



Put dust mite covers on pillows and mattresses.



Purchase bed frame to raise mattress off the floor (you can find a cheap one at a thrift store).



Ask landlord to put smoke alarms outside each bedroom (this is required by law).



Ask landlord to clean any moldy areas.

  Ask landlord to test chipping or flaking paint for lead and fix (make sure a lead specialist is called).

Bathrooms

If you have more than two bathrooms, make two copies of this page.



		Low Concern	Medium Concern	High Concern
Do you see any green, black, grey, white or brown growth or smell a musty odor?	Bathroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bathroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Do you have any leaky pipes?	Bathroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bathroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Does your bathroom have a working fan?	Bathroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
	Bathroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there any wet or moldy carpet in your bathroom?	Bathroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bathroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Does your bathroom have a window that can be opened?	Bathroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
	Bathroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does your bathtub have a non-slip surface or mat?	Bathroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
	Bathroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have a mercury thermometer?	Bathroom 1	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Bathroom 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

 Get rid of mercury thermometer.

- ✓ Use a mixture of water and detergent to clean moldy surfaces. Make sure to dry well.
- ✓ Remove any water-damaged material.
- ✓ When showering, run a fan or open a window.
- ✓ Wipe down damp surfaces after taking a shower or a bath.
- ✓  Attach rugs to the floor, so that they don't slip.

  Ask your landlord to fix any leaky pipes.

  Ask your landlord to remove any moldy carpet and replace with other flooring.

  Ask landlord to clean or fix moldy walls.

  Buy a non-slip mat for showers and bath tubs.

  Buy bathmats to minimize slipping.

 Purchase small fan to use while showering or bathing.

Basement and crawl space



Low Concern

Medium Concern

High Concern

Is the basement damp?

No

Yes

Is the crawlspace damp or musty?

No

Yes

- ✓ Check that downspouts and gutters drain away from the house.
- ✓ If water does not drain away from the house, move dirt to direct water away from the house.
- ✓ If your basement is damp, get rid of anything you have stored there.
- ✓ If your basement is damp, spend less time there.

💰 If damp basement has any carpeting, remove it (check with your landlord).

💰 Use a dehumidifier in the basement/crawl space.

💰 Buy gutter extenders to drain water away from the house.

Outside



Low Concern

Medium Concern

High Concern

Are there any mice, rats or other pests in your yard?

No

Yes

Is there a trash can with a lid where you can store trash?

Yes

No

If you have pesticides or chemicals, are they kept up and away from children and stored in their original containers?

Yes

No

If you have gasoline or kerosene, are they stored up and away from children in containers designed for them?

Yes

No

If your house was built before 1978, is there any chipped or flaking paint?

No

Yes

🔧 Keep children from playing in the yard directly below chipping paint.

🔧 Store gasoline, kerosene, chemicals and pesticides up and away from children in tightly sealed containers.

- ✓ Clear clutter out of yard so pests don't have a hiding place.

💰 Buy a trash can with a lid so your trash doesn't attract pests.

Next Steps

Spend some time talking with your family to figure out what you would like to fix most.



If you have small children, start with those items with a rattle next to them.



If you have family members with asthma or breathing problems, start with those items with an inhaler next to them.



If anyone in your home has mobility issues, focus on items with a wheelchair next to them.

Short Term Fixes

- ✓ Some problems with your home are easy to fix and do not involve spending any money. These have a check mark next to them. What are a few that you can do?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Call your landlord



There are some problems you can ask your landlord to fix. These items have a telephone and letter next to them. What items can you call your landlord about fixing?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Bigger/More Expensive Fixes



There are other fixes that your landlord won't help you with that may require spending a little money. If you have found any of these problems, what are the most important ones?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____
