

# Apartment Move In Checklist

Checklist · 30 items · 11 sections

A room-by-room apartment move-in inspection checklist. Document every existing defect before signing or taking keys: so you're not charged for damage you didn't cause.

Open the editable, AI-powered version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/apartment-move-in-checklist>

## BEFORE YOU START

- Take timestamped photos and video of every room before bringing anything in  
**HIGH**  
*This is your most important protection: photos with metadata timestamps are legally defensible*
- Request a copy of the move-in inspection form from the landlord  
**HIGH**
- Document all pre-existing damage in writing: have landlord sign or email acknowledgment  
**HIGH**

## WALLS & CEILINGS

- Check all walls for scuffs, holes, stains, or paint discoloration  
**HIGH**
- Check ceilings for water stains, cracks, or mold  
**HIGH**

## FLOORS

- Inspect all floors: scratches, stains, damaged tile, or warped wood  
**HIGH**
- Check carpets for stains, wear, or odors  
**HIGH**

## ELECTRICAL

- Test all light switches  
**HIGH**
- Test all electrical outlets (plug in a phone charger to test each one)  
**HIGH**
- Test GFCI outlets in kitchen and bathroom: push test/reset buttons

## WINDOWS & DOORS

- Check all windows open, close, lock properly, and have no broken seals  
**HIGH**
- Test all door locks: deadbolts and knob locks  
**HIGH**
- Check all window screens for tears

## KITCHEN

- Test stove burners and oven  
**HIGH**
- Test refrigerator: runs cold, no unusual noises, ice maker works  
**HIGH**
- Test dishwasher: runs a full cycle, drains properly  
**HIGH**
- Check garbage disposal works
- Inspect kitchen cabinets and drawers: open, close, no damage inside

## PLUMBING

- Run water in all faucets: check pressure, hot water, and for leaks under sink  
**HIGH**
- Flush all toilets: check fill time and that they stop running  
**HIGH**
- Check water pressure in shower  
**HIGH**
- Run all drains: confirm no slow draining (indicates existing clog)  
**HIGH**

## BATHROOM

- Inspect shower/tub for chips, cracks, and grout condition

## HVAC

- Test heating and AC: run both and confirm they work  
**HIGH**

## SAFETY

- Confirm smoke detectors and CO detectors are present and functional

HIGH

*Landlord is legally required to provide working smoke detectors in most states*

- Check for signs of pests: droppings, nests, or damage in cabinets and corners

HIGH

- Check for mold: especially in bathrooms, under sinks, and around windows

HIGH

## ADMINISTRATIVE

- Confirm mailbox key works
- Confirm parking space is correct and accessible
- Set up renter's insurance (typically \$15-30/month: protects your belongings)

HIGH