

Is Your Home Safe?

Everyone is entitled to decent, safe and sanitary housing. But how do you know if your home meets the minimum housing quality standards? This brochure includes a checklist of the 13 Housing Quality Standards as determined by HUD. Use the checklist to help evaluate your home.

What to do if your home does not meet one or more of the quality standards:

- Inform your landlord of any deficiencies and request corrective action.
- If your landlord does not agree to take action, contact one of the resources below for assistance in negotiating with your landlord.

Resources:

Statewide Legal Services of CT
800-453-3320 or 860-344-0380

Greater Hartford Legal Aid
860-541-5000 or ghla@ghla.org

Visit CTLawHelp.org for self-help guides, legal help finder and more.

Call Infoline at **2-1-1** or visit

Housing Quality Standards

This brochure contains information on what constitutes quality housing and resources for assistance in negotiating with your landlord.



Advancing CT Together
110 Bartholomew Ave
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Visit us online at act-ct.org



Quality Housing

Use the following checklist to ensure the quality of your housing unit:

Sanitary facilities

The unit should include a private bathroom with a toilet, sink and shower/tub in proper working order.

Food preparation and refuse disposal

The unit should have suitable space and equipment (stove, oven, refrigerator) to store, prepare, and serve food in a sanitary manner. Facilities/services for the sanitary disposal of food waste and refuse should be available.

Space and security

The unit should have adequate space and security for the family. At a minimum, one bedroom for every two persons. Exterior doors and windows should be lockable.

Thermal environment

There should be a safe system for heating the unit, and it must be in proper working order. The unit should not contain unvented heaters that burn gas, oil, or kerosene.

Illumination and electricity

The unit should have adequate natural or artificial illumination and sufficient electrical sources for essential appliances. Electrical fixtures and wiring must not pose a fire hazard.

Structure and materials

The unit should be structurally sound. Ceilings, walls, and floors should not have any serious defects. Condition of interior/exterior stairs, halls, porches, and walkways should not present the danger of tripping and falling. Elevators must be working safely.

Interior air quality

The unit should be free of air pollutants. There should be adequate air circulation. Bathrooms must have one operable window or other ventilation.

Water supply

The unit should be served by an approved public or private water supply that is sanitary and free from contamination.



Safety matters

Lead-based paint

For families with children under 6 years of age, pre-1978 units must be inspected for deteriorated paint surfaces and the owner must stabilize deteriorated surfaces.

Access

The unit should have private access and an alternate means of exit in case of fire.

Site and neighborhood

The site and neighborhood should be reasonably free from disturbing noises and reverberations or other dangers to the health, safety, and general welfare of the occupants.

Sanitary condition

The dwelling unit and its equipment should be free of vermin and rodent infestation.

Smoke Detectors

On each level of the unit battery-operated or hard-wired smoke detector in proper working order should be present.