You can use the list of questions below to check an apartment before you move in:

**EXAMINE THE BUILDING/UNIT**
- Is the entryway adequately lit?
- Does it have a lock or other security provisions?
- How are deliveries handled?
- Where are the fire exits located? Are fire doors alarmed?
- Does the unit’s entry door have a dead-bolt lock? Security Chain?
- Are there signs of insects, mice, or rats (such as traps, droppings, etc.) present?
- Can you hear neighbors above, below, or on either side of you?
- Is there a fire escape or secondary exit from the unit?
- Do all the switches and outlets work?
- Can the windows be opened, closed and LOCKED easily? (check to make sure they are secure)
- Are windows that can allow easy access to intruders equipped with security bars?
- Are the floors clean or have water stains indicating previous leaks?
- Do the ceilings have any water stains indicating previous leaks?
- Are the walls cracked or peeling?
- Are they free of dents and holes, other than small nail holes?
- Are there enough fixtures for adequate light?
- Are the plumbing fixtures in good working order and reasonably clean?
- How does the hot water supply seem?
- Is there sufficient storage? (ie. linen closet or medicine cabinet?)
- Does the entire building have central air?
- Is the stove in good working order and reasonably clean?

**WHEN TALKING WITH THE LANDLORD, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:**
- Is there an emergency phone number in case of utility problems, leaks, or other urgent maintenance issues?
- Are there separate meters for individual units? If not, are tenants charged for these utilities?
- Do tenants have access to the circuit breakers if there is a small power outage? If not, are maintenance personnel available for flipping circuits on short notice?
- Who controls the temperature in the building?
- Where is the trash/ recycling to be placed? Is it put out by landlord or tenants?
- Do you pay extra for things as utilities, storage space, air-conditioning, parking space, master TV antenna connection, installation of special appliances, late payment of rent, etc.?
- Is there an automatic renewal clause?

Whenever possible, always try to interview current tenants. Ask them about things such as maintenance requests, heating and A/C, structural problems, parking, laundry facilities, etc.

And **ALWAYS** read your lease!