

Housing & Home Care

How do you check out a retirement community?

The following checklist may assist you as you compare retirement communities. Nursing home or assisted living selection guides are included above from the State of New Jersey. This guide is for “independent” retirement living communities. You should print out a copy of this checklist for each community. I have found it helpful to draw a simple floor plan of each place you consider on the backside of the paper, if floor plans are not available from the sales/marketing offices of the facilities.

Use this for the first time visit to several communities: you will want to gather more specific information after you narrow your choices.

We recommend that you use an attorney to review contract requirements before signing any residency or residency and care agreement.

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Community Evaluation Form

Name of Community: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Contact Person: _____ **Date of Tour:** _____

You may want to use a number system to value the "yes" and "no" or state a non-committal "3"

General Impression	YES (5,4)	NO (2,1)	NOTES
Neighborhood			
Exterior appeal of building, painting			
Parking and ease of access			
Noise & traffic pattern			
Landscape			
Covered entry for inclement weather			
Availability of public transportation??			
Public Areas			
Staff friendliness			
Clean, crisp (no odors or clutter)			
Quality of fixtures, finishes, appointments			
Spaciousness			
Activity and energy: residents present			
Light and views			
Institutional looking?			
Elevator (if applicable)			
Wide hallways			
Individual Living Areas			
Adequate size of rooms?			
Adequate heat/AC controls?			
Adequate ventilation?			
Quiet noise level of appliances, heat/AC			
Eating area acceptable?			
Kitchen acceptable?			
Bathroom acceptable?			
Storage capacity adequate?			
Housekeeping frequency adequate?			
Flooring, wall-covering adequate?			
Light and lighting fixtures adequate?			
Washer & Dryer in unit?			
Services & Amenities, if applicable			
Dining options and hours adequate?			
Flexibility of dining options?			
Choice of food adequate?			

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Quality of food adequate?				
Health Clinic, hours and staffing adequate?				
Housekeeping frequency, adequate?				
Fitness Center adequate?				
Aquatic, swimming pool adequate?				
Activities, craft, hobby room(s) adequate?				
Activities Calendar, adequate?				
Transportation, adequate?				
24 hour security?				
Concierge services?				
Other Amenity:				
Other Amenity:				
Other Amenity:				
Other Amenity:				
Cost				
Living option #1: _____				Description:
Living option #2: _____				Description:
Other charges A: _____				Description:
Other charge B: _____				Description:
Other charge C: _____				Description:
One time charges: _____				Description:
Refundable charges/deposits: _____				Description:
(attach price sheet)				
Time & Availability				
Wait list?				
Estimated date for availability of apartment/dwelling: _____				