

What to Look for When Renting a Home!

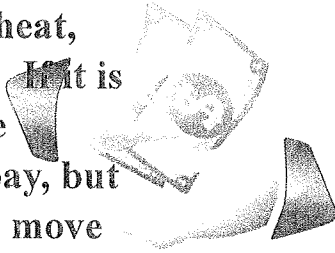
1. What you see is what you get. Usually if the repairs are not made before you move in, they will never be made.



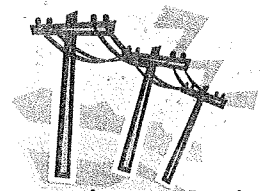
2. Who owns the property? Check with the Register of Deeds or the City Tax Records to see if you are giving the money to the actual owner.

(www.waynecountylandrecords.com)

3. Who pays the heat, water, and lights? If it is not in writing, the landlord should pay, but clarify before you move in.



4. If the utilities are going to be in your name, find out how many units are on the meter. DTE should give you this information. You are not liable for past bills, but sometimes DTE or the Water Board will try to stick you with them, so find out if the landlord owes money.



5. Is it ok to have pets or air conditioners?



6. Does the basement flood? Look for loose tile or water marks on the walls that show water damage.



7. How much do you have to pay to move in? You should not have to pay a "key charge" or cleaning fee; the security deposit should only be 1 1/2 times the rental rate.



8. Get a copy of the lease and get receipts for rent paid each month.

