



**BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF ECOLOGY AND INSTITUTIONAL
SERVICES**



**SANITARIAN CHECK-OFF LIST FOR FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES
AND FOSTER CARE HOMES**

Exterior Home Check:

1. Walkway or sidewalk
 - should be no broken or bulging cement
2. Gutter and downspout
 - should be intact and in good condition
3. Exterior wood trim
 - should not be peeling or splintering
4. Steps and handrailings
 - should be sturdy and intact
5. Front and backyard
 - grass and vegetation should be trimmed short; should be litter free
6. Window screens
 - should be installed for summer use if windows are to be opened
7. Refuse containers
 - should be sufficient in number and in good condition with tight-fitting lids
8. Pets
 - should be properly licensed and vaccinated
9. Exterior of home and roof
 - should be in good repair (no leaks); structurally sound; no broken or missing window panes
10. Barriers for in-ground and above-ground pools*
 - child-safe fencing at least 4 feet high is required to keep children safely away from pool; above-ground pool owners are required to fence and to gate the entrance (steps) to the pool

Interior Home Check

11. Plumbing
 - should have hot and cold water under required pressure supplies to all sinks; should have workable toilet(s)
12. Furnace (heating/air conditioning system)
 - should be in good repair with regular maintenance (suggest annual service contract)
13. Electrical system
 - should have adequate housepower and be in good repair with no exposed or frayed wires
14. Electrical outlets
 - should be plugged or covered

15. Housekeeping
 - the home should be neat and clean and free from vermin infestation (roaches, rodents, etc.)
16. Room walls, floors and ceilings
 - should be of durable construction and in good repair
17. Smoke detectors
 - required by City ordinance; recommend one for each house level and in each bedroom of foster or family day care child
18. Fire extinguisher
 - suggest 2A10BC type be available (or multi-purpose ABC type)
19. Radiators
 - should be covered with approved radiator covers in all rooms used by care program
20. Food and food service
 - should be from safe, unadulterated source; food should be handled, prepared, transported, served and stored in a safe and healthy manner as required
21. Dishwashing
 - suggest using approximately 1 or 2 ounces of bleach in detergent dishwash water; or use disposable plates and flatware
22. Household appliances (refrigerator, cooking stove, etc.)
 - should be in good repair and in satisfactory working condition
23. Thermometers
 - are required for all food service operators; refrigerator/freezer type thermometers that are graduated in 2 degree Fahrenheit or Celsius intervals shall be provided in all cooling and freezing units.
24. Bedroom space requirement (for foster care)
 - single bedroom should be minimum area of 70 sq. ft.; double bedroom should be a minimum area of 100 sq. ft. (50 sq. ft. per person)

* Requirements may vary depending on the pool conditions observed.

For additional information, please contact:

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