

Your Retirement Village Checklist

When you feel it is the right time for you to move into a retirement village, there are important questions you can ask that will make your decision an easier one.

We recommend that you visit as many villages as possible to see what they offer and decide whether you would enjoy living there.

Here is a checklist of possible questions to ask when conducting your own research for a suitable retirement village

Contact Information

Retirement Village Name	
Contact Person	
Date	
Phone	

Lifestyle

QUESTIONS	DECISIONS
<p>Why do you want to move to a retirement village?</p>	
<p>What location or area do you wish to reside in?</p>	
<p>Do you want to be near your current home, close to family and friends or are you looking for a complete change?</p>	
<p>What type of village will suit you most? <i>Apartment living, established older style village, an Independent Living Unit (ILU) or a serviced apartment?</i></p>	
<p>Have you talked with your family and friends about moving into a village?</p>	

Financial & Legal

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>What is included in the service or maintenance fees? <i>Is it payable weekly, fortnightly or monthly? How often could this fee increase and will it increase much? Could you continue to afford it, if your spouse or partner dies?</i></p>	
<p>Does the cost of the home, plus the ongoing monthly service fee fit into your budget?</p>	
<p>What are the 'exit fees' or Deferred Management Fees (DMF), as many villages charge differently?</p>	
<p>How much is the deposit to secure a villa or apartment, and is it refunded if you decide not to go ahead with the purchase?</p>	
<p>If you leave the village are you entitled to a refund? <i>How soon after leaving the village will the refund be paid?</i></p>	
<p>What type of contract would you be entering into? <i>e.g. strata title, leasehold, freehold.</i></p>	

Management & Resident Involvement

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Is the village accredited?	
How is the village managed?	
Is there a residents' committee and what role does it play in the administration of the village?	
What dispute resolution procedures are in place?	
What arrangements are in place for maintenance of units, community facilities and grounds?	
Can you establish your own private garden?	
What protection do you have if the village is sold to another organisation?	

Health & Security Considerations

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>What arrangements are there for times of ill health or need for hospitalisation?</p>	
<p>Are there nurses or village staff on duty, or do they come to the village during the week?</p>	
<p>Is there an emergency call button system in place? <i>If so, who responds to such calls?</i></p>	
<p>What types of services and amenities does the village provide? <i>e.g. podiatry, physiotherapy, wheelchair access.</i></p>	
<p>Is there an aged care facility nearby or on site? <i>Or if your needs change, is there alternative accommodation in or near the village?</i></p>	

Village Life

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>Can my family and friends stay?</p>	
<p>Are you allowed to have pets?</p>	
<p>Does the village provide a bus or other transport and at what cost?</p>	
<p>Apart from the village facilities, what services are available to you from the local community? <i>e.g. library, recreational, meals-on-wheels, hospitals, doctors.</i></p>	
<p>What age group are the residents?</p>	
<p>Can you continue with your hobbies? <i>What clubs, social groups and activities are on offer?</i></p>	

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>Are the floor plans, gardens and entertaining areas right for you?</p>	
<p>What is the security like in the village?</p>	
<p>Are the residents happy to talk to you about their experiences?</p>	
<p>Are meals available if you are unable to cook?</p>	
<p>What are the options for home help, dining facilities, etc. that can be accessed if needed?</p>	

Before signing a contract you should obtain the following

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
A copy of the resident contract	
A copy of the village rules	
A check list of legal and financial questions you should ask before entering into a contract (See your Solicitor)	
A notice of your rights under your State or Territory's Retirement Villages Act	
A copy of financial information relating to the operation of the retirement village	