

# 2016 ONPHA Conference and Trade Show

**601**

## Unit Inspections: How, When, and Why

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Ontario Non-profit Housing Association

ONPhA



# Introductions

# Overview

- Purpose of unit inspections
- Organizing your inspections
- Privacy and other considerations
- Conducting inspections
- Follow-up



# Goals of Unit Inspections

- Understanding the state of your buildings
- Addressing health and safety concerns
- Preparing for unit turnover
- Maintenance planning
- Tenant well-being and policies



# When to inspect

- With a new tenant before move-in
- Following up on existing concerns
- Once annually
- Before move-out
- New construction



# Organizing Unit Inspections

- Prepare inspection forms
- Prepare spreadsheet/database for results
- Decide which staff will do them
- Schedule inspections
- Deliver notices
- Tools and equipment



# Inspection forms

- Customize to your building
- Space for comments
- ONPHA has a template to start with









# True North Non-Profit Unit Inspection Sheet

Unit :		Inspected by:	Date:
Entrance		Notes	Misc:
Door (peep hole, lock, door closer)			Tenant concern (see notes)
Hall closet			Recycle bins
Ceiling			Bedbugs
Walls			Other pests
Recepticals			Hot Plates
Faceplates			Moisture
Tile			
Baseboard			
Caulking			
Electrical Panel			
Bathroom			
Ceiling			
Walls			
Recepticals			
Faceplates			

# True North Non-Profit Unit Inspection Sheet - Page 2

Unit :	Inspected by:	Date:
Kitchen	<u>Notes</u>	
Ceiling	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Recepticals	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Flooring	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Baseboard	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Taps	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sinks	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fan	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stove	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cabinets	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Counters	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Screen	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Window	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Light fixture	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Living room	<input type="checkbox"/>	

# Collecting results

- How will you use the results?
- Who will be using the information?
- How will you identify urgent priorities?



BUILDING:

Building Name Here

Unit #	Names of Tenants	Age	Date of Inspection	Level of Clutter	Level of Cleanliness	Brief Statement On Unit (pests (specify), garbage, cleanliness, health violation, access issues, fire hazard, hazardous products, neglected pets, damage to unit, etc)	Vulnerability, Supports (children at risk, mental health, frail elderly, disabled, sick, Agency support on file? Other contacts?)	Lead Staff / Action Plan (meeting, follow up inspections, PH or Fire involvement needed?, connection to services, de-clutter support, N5)	Follow Up Notes (Aware of clutter & health/safety risks? Willing to accept help? Denied entry? Next Steps?)
			Date	Low	Low				
				Med	Med				
				High	High				
			Date	Low	Low				
				Med	Med				
				High	High				
			Date	Low	Low				
				Med	Med				
				High	High				

## NAME HERE - 2016 Unit Inspections

**BUILDING:**

Date:

[illegible]

# Schedule

- 8am to 8pm
- About 10 minutes for a bachelor unit
- About 20 minutes for a 2-bedroom unit
- Better to under-estimate the number of units



# Notice to tenants - Basics

- Post notices around the buildings a couple of weeks early
- At *least* 24 hours notice legally required
- Give the clearest information possible





## Notice of Entry

Date: November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Janet Doe:

Staff will enter your unit on November 28th between 9am and 4pm for your annual unit inspection.

- Details  
Add more information here as needed
- Details  
And more information

If you have questions or need to let us know anything before your inspection please contact the office at 705-555-5555 or [admin@nph.org](mailto:admin@nph.org)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Property Management

# Notice to tenants – Other Information

- Why are you doing inspections?
- Are you going to be taking photos?
- What do I do with my pets?
- Are you looking at how my family lives?
- Do I have to be home?
- How long will it take?
- What if I don't want my unit inspected?
- What do you do with the results?



# Tools and equipment

- What do you need?



# Tools and equipment

- Clipboard
- Numbered inspection forms
- Pens
- Notices of Entry (optional)
- Circuit tester
- Screwdriver
- Camera



# Privacy and security

- Information about a tenant is private
  - Cleanliness, clutter, pets, pests etc.
  - Information about any tenant's living situation
- Photos that include people's belongings are private information



# Working with Tenants

- Tenants often the most knowledgeable about unit
- Be flexible if a tenant is not prepared
- Treat tenants' homes with dignity and respect
- Tenants who won't allow access



# Concerns for tenants

- Pests
- Extreme cleanliness concerns
- Unsafe living conditions
- Hoarding/excess clutter
- Pets poorly looked after





# Pests

- Bedbugs
  - Stop inspection if you find bedbugs?
  - Check “resting areas” (beds, couches) and move on from there
  - Creases and folds in linens
  - Mattress and box spring seams and stitch lines
  - Bed frame





**Bed bugs and fecal spots  
along a mattress seam**



**Bed bugs on a  
metal bed frame**

# Pests

- Roaches
  - Nocturnal
  - Found in areas with moisture
  - Check bathrooms, kitchens
  - In cupboards, behind stoves, in drawers
  - Can cause illness
  - Travel easily between units
  - Difficult to eradicate











# Hoarding

- Also referred to as excessive clutter
- Signs:
  - Cannot use rooms or furniture for their intended purpose
  - Can't move freely or safely
  - Emergency services couldn't access the unit
  - Unstable piles of things
  - Vents or heating blocked
  - Hallways are obstructed
  - Doors won't open all the way





# Clutter Image Rating: Living Room

Please select the photo below that most accurately reflects the amount of clutter in your room.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

# Questions?



# How can ONPHA help you?

## 1. Visit ONPHA online:

[onpha.on.ca](http://onpha.on.ca)

- handbooks and guides
- InfoONs
- FocusON

## 2. ONPHA Member Support

**Hotline:** 1-800-297-6660

## 3. ONPHA Education Program

- Online courses: RGI, RTA, Finance and Governance
- Webinars
- In-person training

## 4. ONPHA Conference

- Join us in 2017
- Niagara Falls: Nov 3 - 5



# Thank you!



**Questions?** Email [member.support@onpha.org](mailto:member.support@onpha.org) or call 1-800-297-6660, or 416-927-9144 x 115

*ONPHA values your opinion. Please complete a workshop evaluation.*