FREE CHECKLIST

Questions to ask on a *retirement home tour.*

Take this with you, or print it. Tick what you asked, and jot down the answers while they're fresh. There's no sign-up.

Everyday life

- [ ] What does a typical day look like for residents here?
- [ ] How do new residents get to know people?
- [ ] Can I see the activity calendar for this month?
- [ ] Can residents come and go as they please, and have visitors any time?
- [ ] Are pets welcome? Are there limits?

Meals

- [ ] Can I try a meal, and see this week's menu?
- [ ] How are dietary, cultural or religious food needs handled?
- [ ] Are meal times set, or flexible?

Care and safety

- [ ] What help is available, and who provides it, day and night?
- [ ] What happens if care needs change? Could they need to move?
- [ ] How are medications managed?
- [ ] What happens in an emergency, and how fast does someone respond?
- [ ] In Ontario: can I see the home's licence and inspection reports on the RHRA public register?

Costs and contract

- [ ] What exactly does the monthly fee include, and what costs extra?
- [ ] How much have fees gone up in each of the last few years?
- [ ] Is there a deposit, move-in fee, or minimum stay?
- [ ] What notice is needed to leave, and what happens to fees after a move or a death?
- [ ] Can I take the contract home to read before signing?

The suite

- [ ] Can they bring their own furniture and decorate?
- [ ] Is the suite accessible: grab bars, walk-in shower, step-free?
- [ ] Can they control the heat and air conditioning?

How it feels

- [ ] Did residents seem happy and engaged? Did staff know them by name?
- [ ] Was it clean, bright and calm? How did it smell?
- [ ] Could you picture them here on an ordinary Tuesday?
- [ ] What did they think? (Ask them first.)

Want help making sense of what you heard? Avery, our free AI advisor, can help you compare places side by side. agewise.ai