

House Check Up

Adhering to the Oxford House System of Operations is the responsibility of all Oxford House residents. All houses need to check the status of their house regularly. Each member and the house as a whole should read this and take positive action.

1. How is the outside of your house? is it the best in the neighborhood or at least one of the best? Are the lawn and shrubs trimmed, leaves raked, weeds gone, and all unnecessary junk removed? You have several adults in your home, probably more than your neighbors and this is the first impression people have of Oxford House and its residents.
2. Is it time to repaint, wash the walls and really deep clean everything inside? A thoroughly clean house makes for a healthy environment physically and mentally. Does your house need maintenance, caulking in the bathrooms, replacing broken hardware, shampooing carpet, etc.? Take care of your home.
3. Are your house finances in good order and following the Oxford House guidelines? Is your loan current? This repayment makes it possible for other houses to open. Does the house insure the safety of its funds by signing authorized checks (approved by majority vote) at the house meeting only; by giving receipts for all income; by conducting a regularly scheduled monthly audit and reconciling house records when your bank statement arrives; and by sharing all bills and receipt expenditures at your meeting? Do you use a two key lock box for your checkbook? We trust everyone but not their addiction. Good accounting practices keep your house and its individuals healthy.
4. Does everyone participate in house and chapter activities or do they just use your house for cheap living? Do you participate in regular presentations to treatment centers and referral agencies?
5. Are you adhering to the three basic Oxford House charter rules? Is everyone paying his or her equal expense share (EES) on time? Is your house at zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs, including prescribed narcotics? Does

everyone participate in the decision making process in your house?
Remember we have no bosses and each residents vote is equally important.

6. Are your house files and notebooks in good order? Are all your forms in order?
7. Do you make new members feel welcome by walking them through all the house guidelines and physical aspects of cupboard, refrigerator, etc.? Have you tried the "buddy system"?
8. Is everyone attending your weekly house meetings? Are you rushing through the meeting or do you allow time for the democratic process to work? Do you allow ample time to hold a "How Goes It"? This has proven to be one of the critical aspects of a stress free home.
9. Do your house members make recovery, attitude and behavior change a priority by practicing principles in all their affairs? Oxford House is a privilege for individuals in recovery not cheap digs for dysfunctional people.

If you are experiencing difficulties in any of these areas contact your Housing Service Committee Chairperson or outreach services for suggestions on improvement. We call ALL make the time to clean up and sharpen up our homes and our lives for a better chance at long term recovery.

Oxford House is
RECOVERY,
RESPONSIBILITY,
AND
REPLICATION