

House Check up

With spring just around the corner all houses need to check the status of their house. 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 neighborhoods or at least one of the best? Is the lawn and shrubs trim, 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 it's 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 (all house members voted) at the house meeting only; by giving receipts for all income; by completing a monthly audit when your bank statement arrives; and by sharing all bills and receipts expenditures at your meeting? Do you use a 2 key lock box for your checkbook and petty cash? We trust everyone but not their addict. Good accounting practices keep your house and it's 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 the treatment centers and agencies?
5. Are you adhering to the three basic Oxford House charter rules? Is everyone paying his or her fair share on time? Is your house at zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs? Does everyone participate in the decision making 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 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 "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 a focus by practicing attitude and behavior change and practicing the 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 services chairmen or outreach representative for suggestions on how to improve. We can **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.