

**GASTONIA HOUSING AUTHORITY  
PASSING THE SECTION 8 HQS INSPECTION  
COMMONLY FAILED ITEMS**

All property must pass a Section 8 HQS inspection before the property can be placed on the Section 8 program. The property passes inspection when it is in compliance with the HUD Housing Quality Standards and the GHA Acceptability Criteria Variations. These documents are available from the Gastonia Housing Authority main office located at 340 W Long Ave or GHA's website at [www.ghanc.org](http://www.ghanc.org).

The following 25 items are the main reasons why most properties fail the inspection. Correcting these items prior to the inspection will give an estimated 95% assurance that the property will be in compliance with HQS and ACV and pass inspection.

The first 10 items are by far the most commonly failed items. The next 15 also have been found to contribute significantly to failed inspections. The items are listed in order of highest to lowest failure rate.

1. Utilities not turned on. All utilities must be on and all appliances and equipment operable. The utilities may be in the landlords name for the inspection but must be transferred to the tenant before the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Contract is executed
2. Missing light globes
3. Cracked/missing electrical switch plates and receptacle covers
4. Windows painted shut
5. Smoke detectors, missing batteries
6. Chipping/peeling paint on siding, window sills, trim, porches, etc.
7. Open ground receptacles
8. Foundations vents missing or foundation vent screening missing or damaged
9. Water temps too high, must be between 100 and 120 degrees Fahrenheit (at tap)
10. Refrigerator temperature too high, must be no higher than 38 degrees
  
11. Handrails required for four (4) or more risers
12. Holes and cracks in foundation
13. Doors: Must be weather tight with workable locks and no double cylinder deadbolts
14. Handrails/guardrails: Maximum of 4" between vertical members
15. No GFCI receptacles in kitchen and bathroom
16. No attic access, R-19 or better insulation required in the attic
17. Water Heater: Must have drain pipe to T & P relief valve, no leaks
18. Broken/cracked window panes and windows without secure workable locks
19. Bathroom must have at least one window that can be opened or a mechanical vent system
20. Storm doors: All components must be present and operable
21. Bedrooms: No blocked egress (windows, doors) – at least one window must provide unobstructed egress from the room
22. Stove: All burners and oven must be operable. All knobs must be present and marked.
23. Refrigerator: All components must be present and workable
24. Gutters and downspouts must be sound and secure and free from hazard
25. All dwellings units must display house numbers as assigned by the local jurisdiction

The above items are prioritized by the highest percentage rate of failure on first time out inspections.