

2.2.2 TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION

There are two basic methods used for securing employee accommodation abroad:

Crown Accommodation

Crown accommodation means accommodation that has been acquired by the Department either by purchase or under a long-term lease. The purpose of this method is to ensure that a succession of occupants will be able to live in suitable accommodation in countries where there is a poor housing market or where other conditions exist making it difficult for employees to find their own. Crown accommodation is usually furnished according to a matériel scheme known as a "MAT". Hard furnishings including drapes, carpets and major appliances are normally provided. Those of you who will be occupying Crown furnished accommodation will need to include in your shipment of personal effects such items as linens, dishes, glassware, cutlery, kitchen utensils, pots and pans, knick-knacks, wall-hangings and special possessions in order to make your house a home.

A considerable amount of time, energy and, of course, money are spent each year in acquiring and outfitting suitable Crown accommodation. The housing situation at a post is carefully surveyed and properties are selected taking into account factors such as location, security, facilities, variable family sizes, representational requirements and overall suitability. You can appreciate that terminating a lease prematurely on Crown accommodation in order to lease an alternative not only defeats the purpose of this method but is also a very expensive undertaking. Therefore, if you are assigned Crown accommodation suitable for your household size, you are expected to occupy it as a condition of your posting.

Private Accommodation

For most employees, private accommodation means a private leasing arrangement with a property owner or landlord. At some posts, mainly in the United States and larger European cities, private rentals are still relatively plentiful. One of the main advantages of this method is that you have the freedom to choose your own home. On the other hand, you will be accepting the entire responsibility to fulfill various tenancy conditions based on local laws and customs which may differ greatly from Ontario or Québec civil law. You will find some useful information and hints about searching for private accommodation in Chapter Four of this Handbook.