



# RENTAL CHECKLIST

## Step One:

### PREPARE YOUR DOCUMENTS

Here's a checklist to have everything ready so you're ahead of the game:

#### 1. PROOF OF IDENTITY

Scan or take photos of your ID (driver's license, state ID, or passport).

#### 2. PROOF OF INCOME

- Gather 2–3 months of pay stubs or a letter from your employer.
- **If self-employed, print the last 2–3 months of bank statements or your latest tax return. Highlight income consistency if it varies.**

#### 3. RENTAL HISTORY

*Make a list of past addresses, including:*

- Landlord names and contact info.
- Dates you lived at each place.

*If you've had a great rental experience, ask your former landlord for a letter of recommendation (optional but helpful!).*

#### 4. CREDIT CHECK

- Get a free credit report at [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://AnnualCreditReport.com) or through a credit app.
- If there are any issues (e.g., errors, old collections), address those now.

#### 5. SECURITY DEPOSIT

Save at least 1.5x your monthly rent for the deposit + first month's rent.

#### 6. RENTERS INSURANCE

Shop for policies online (it's usually \$10–\$25/month).  
You can purchase it later, but some landlords need proof before move-in.

#### 7. PET DOCUMENTATION (IF APPLICABLE)

- Have vet records or proof of vaccinations (some landlords require this).
- Prepare to pay pet fees or deposits.

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 Houston & Surrounding Areas

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## Step Two:

### KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

- How many bedrooms/bathrooms do you need?
- Do you want a house or an apartment?
- What's your monthly budget (including utilities)?

## Step Three:

### WHEN APPLYING

- Be polite, professional, and highlight your strengths (e.g., stable income, good rental history).
- If you don't meet all requirements (e.g., credit score), offer extra security:
- A larger deposit.
- A co-signer.
- Prepaying a few months of rent if possible.