Renters Guide

Welcome

Moving into a new place can be exciting, but it also comes with responsibilities. This guide gives you a quick overview of what to look out for and where to go if you need help.

Before You Rent

- Read the lease carefully –make sure you understand the terms, rent amount, and due dates.
- Check the condition – walk through the unit and note any damages before signing.
- Know the costs – ask about deposits, utilities, parking, and fees.

Moving In

- Document everything – take photos of your unit when you move in.
- Keep copies – save your lease, receipts, and essential communications.
- Know your rights – landlords must provide safe and livable housing.

While You Rent

- Pay on time – rent is usually due monthly, and late fees may apply.
- Request repairs in writing – keep records of what you've reported.
- Respect the property – follow lease rules and be a good neighbor.

Moving Out

- Give proper notice – check your lease for how much time you need to give.
- Clean – leave the unit in good condition to increase your chance of getting your deposit back.
- Do a final walkthrough – document the condition when you leave.

Resources

- SC Residential Landlord and Tenant Act info: https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t27c040.php
- SC Housing Compliance -Tenant Complaints Hotline: (803)896-9007 or (800)236-3994
- South Carolina Legal Services- Free civil legal help for low-income residents (888) 346-5592

  https://sclegal.org/
- SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center - https://www.scjustice.org/category/housing/-
- SC Human Affairs Commission- https://schac.sc.gov/

Disclaimer-This guide is for general information only and does not replace your lease or local housing laws. Contact your landlord, local housing office, or a qualified professional for specific concerns.