

First-Home Checklist

Your first rented place — a calm, practical checklist. This is a big first step, not a test.

Before you move

A little planning now saves a lot of stress later.

- ☐ Set a budget you can comfortably afford
- ☐ Choose an area that suits you
- ☐ Book viewings of a few places
- ☐ Check the commute and nearby amenities

Securing the place

Get the paperwork right before you commit.

- ☐ Pay the deposit and make sure it's protected in a government scheme
- ☐ Read the tenancy agreement carefully
- ☐ Sort a guarantor if you need one
- ☐ Agree the inventory with your landlord

Bills & setup

Line up the essentials so nothing catches you out.

- ☐ Register for council tax
- ☐ Set up utilities (gas, electric, water)
- ☐ Arrange broadband
- ☐ Get contents insurance
- ☐ Set up regular payments

Moving in

Small steps on arrival keep things smooth.

- ☐ Redirect your mail
- ☐ Update your address (bank, employer, GP, electoral register)
- ☐ Take meter readings
- ☐ Photograph the inventory

Settling in

Make it feel like home in the first weeks.

- ☐ Register with a local GP
- ☐ Meet your neighbours
- ☐ Learn your bin collection days
- ☐ Find your nearest supermarket