

How to Be a Good Tenant

The most important part of being a good tenant is **paying the rent on time**. It's usually due on the first day of the month. You might have a grace period, but remember that the rent is due on the first, and if you go beyond the grace period, you could lose your home. Know the **rules about people moving in with you**. Remember, if your name is on the lease, you are the one who is responsible for paying the rent. If you have roommates, all of the rent is due, not just "your share." Set aside time for needed **cleaning and household tasks**. Usually, if something fails on its own, like a leaky roof or a broken furnace, it's the landlord's job to fix it. But it's your job to keep up the place and prevent damage. Remember:

- You are responsible for any **damage you cause**.
- You are also responsible for any **damage your guests cause**, so think about who you invite.
- Don't **clog the toilet**. (Keep paper towels, sanitary napkins, cigarette butts, toys, etc., out of the toilet.)
- Don't **clog the kitchen sink**. (Keep grease and excess food out of the drain.)
- Change your **light bulbs** and the batteries in your **smoke detectors**.
- Keep your **refrigerator and oven clean**.
- **Tell your landlord** about any problems before they get worse.

Respect your neighbors

- Keep your music or TV volume down.
- Be polite. If you don't want to talk, a quick "hello" helps keep things civil.
- Respect common areas (like laundry rooms or lobbies). Be quiet, don't smoke or drink alcohol, and keep the area clean.

Don't let problems get out of control

- Politely mention any issues (like someone playing loud music).
- Don't let people take advantage of you (frequently borrowing or asking for favors). It's natural to want to help, but there are limits.
- If problems continue, Permanent Supportive Housing staff might be able to help.