People's Law School

5 THINGS TO KNOW WHEN LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RENT

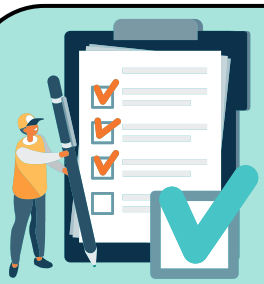
Finding a suitable rental can feel daunting. To sharpen your strategy and steer clear of common pitfalls, here are five key things to keep in mind during your search.

1 WHAT RENTAL LAW APPLIES

Most rental housing situations are covered by BC's main tenancy law. **But some aren't**. For example, it doesn't apply to certain roommate arrangements or mobile home parks.

2 HOW TO SPOT A RENTAL SCAM

Bad actors use a mix of tactics to take advantage of those searching for rental housing. Two common scams are the **false owner scenario** and the **bait-and-switch**.



3 KEY PARTS OF THE TENANCY AGREEMENT

As a renter, it's important to understand what's in a tenancy agreement before signing. Among the **key terms** to pay extra attention to are details about rent, how the tenancy will come to an end, and rules about guests.

4 YOUR RIGHTS IN THE SCREENING PROCESS

BC's **privacy laws** limit the types of information a landlord is allowed to collect from you during the tenant screening process. You're also protected by **human rights laws**.

5 HOW DEPOSITS WORK

Landlords are allowed to ask for a **security deposit** at the start of a tenancy, of up to half of the first month's rent. In pet-friendly rentals, they can also ask for a **pet damage deposit**.

To learn more, visit **peopleslawschool.ca/renting**