

Residential Tenancy Agreement

This tenancy agreement has been approved for use by The Office of the Tenancy Tribunal.

HOW TO USE THIS AGREEMENT

1. **This is a legally binding contract.**
2. All tenancy agreements must be in writing. A separate form of tenancy agreement for use for a Boarding House Tenancy is available on our website.
3. The landlord must provide the tenant with a copy of this agreement prior to the commencement of the tenancy. If the property is a Unit Titles property, a copy of the most recent Body Corporate rules must be attached to this agreement.
4. This agreement must be completed in full and the tenant and landlord each keep a copy.
5. The rights and obligations set out in the *Residential Tenancies Act 1986* are implied in every residential tenancy agreement (see pages 2, 3 and 4 of this agreement for a brief outline of some of the key provisions of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1986*).
6. No terms or conditions added to this agreement are valid if they are contrary to the *Residential Tenancies Act 1986*.
7. Landlords must include a signed statement with any new tenancy agreement that covers what insulation a property has, where it is, what type and what condition
8. Landlords must also provide a statement to confirm they will comply, or already do comply, with the healthy homes standards. This statement can be combined with the insulation statement, with one signature.
9. Landlords must include a statement about whether the property is insured, and if so, what the excess is. They must also include a statement informing the tenant that a copy of their insurance policy is available on request.
10. All rental properties must meet the requirements in regulations regarding insulation and smoke alarms.
11. Before signing this agreement all parties should carefully read it and seek information from Tenancy Services if they are unclear about what they are agreeing to.
12. The parties must record their full names correctly.
13. If a bond is paid, a Bond Lodgement Form must also be completed.
14. Bonds must be lodged with Tenancy Services within 23 working days of being paid. This can be done online.
15. Parties to tenancy agreements are subject to the provisions of the *Privacy Act 1993*. Any information provided on this agreement shall not be used or disclosed, without consent, for any purpose other than the administration of the tenancy or to pursue legal action.
16. Letting fees can't be charged to tenants.
17. If there is a problem between the tenant and landlord, and they can't agree, Tenancy Services can help sort it out. Visit www.tenancy.govt.nz or call us for free information on **0800 836 262**.

OUTLINE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT 1986 (RTA)

Please refer to the *Residential Tenancies Act 1986* and amendments for the complete provisions.

Tenants and landlords! If you have problems, talk to each other. If you can't sort it out, talk to us. We can help you sort it out. www.tenancy.govt.nz , 0800 TENANCY (0800 836 262)

1. Agreement

- › Each party should keep a copy of this tenancy agreement.
- › Changes in the particulars of either party must be notified to the other party within 10 working days.
- › This contract may not be enforceable against a tenant under the age of 18 (a minor). The *Minors Contracts Act 1969* may apply.

2. Contact details

- › Each party must provide an email address and mobile phone number if they have them.
- › Each party must supply a physical address for service in New Zealand where notices and other documents relating to the tenancy will be accepted by them, or on their behalf, even after the tenancy has ended. Tenants who supply the rental address as their address for service should update this at the end of the tenancy. Parties may also supply an additional address for service which can include a PO Box, email or facsimile.
- › If the landlord is going to be out of New Zealand for more than 21 days and has to appoint an agent, the landlord must give the tenant the agent's name, contact address, mobile phone number (if any), email address (if any) and address for service.

3. Rent

- › Landlords shall not require rent to be paid more than 2 weeks in advance, nor until rent already paid has been used up.
- › 60 days' written notice must be given for rent increases.
- › Rent shall not be increased within 180 days of the start of the tenancy or the last rent increase.
- › Also for rent to be increased in a fixed-term tenancy, it must be stated in the tenancy agreement.
- › Receipts must be given immediately if rent is paid in cash.

4. Bond

- › A bond is not compulsory, but a landlord may require a bond of up to 4 weeks' rent.
- › Bonds must be lodged with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment within 23 working days of being paid.
- › Receipts must be given for bond payments.
- › If the property is sold, the landlord's rights with regard to the bond pass to the purchaser of the property.
- › The bond covers any damage or loss to the landlord if the tenant's obligations are not met, but does not cover fair wear and tear.

5. Landlord's responsibilities

- › Provide and maintain the premises in a reasonable condition.
- › Allow the tenant quiet enjoyment of the premises.
- › Comply with all building, health and safety standards that apply to the premises.
- › Comply with all requirements in respect of smoke alarms imposed on the landlord by regulations.
- › Landlords need to have working smoke alarms installed in all their residential rental homes. Any replacement alarms installed after 1 July 2016 (other than hard-wired systems) need to have long life batteries and a photoelectric sensor.
- › Pay rates and any insurance taken out by the landlord.
- › Not seize the tenant's goods for any reason.
- › Inform the tenant if the property is on the market for sale.
- › Not interfere with the supply of any services to the premises.
- › If the landlord is in breach of these responsibilities, the tenant(s) can apply to the Tenancy Tribunal.
- › Appoint an agent and notify the tenant and Bond Centre of the agent's details whenever leaving New Zealand for more than 21 consecutive days.
- › Inform the tenant of any changes to the information in the insurance statement within a reasonable time.

6. Tenant's responsibilities

- › Pay the rent on time.
- › Keep the premises reasonably clean and tidy, and notify the landlord as soon as any repairs are needed. You may not withhold rent if you cannot get repairs done.
- › Seek information from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (0800 83 62 62).
- › Use the premises principally for residential purposes.
- › Pay all electricity, gas, telephone, and metered water charges.
- › Replace batteries in smoke alarms as required.
- › Not damage or permit damage to the premises, and to inform the landlord of any damage.
- › Not disturb the neighbours or the landlord's other tenants.
- › Not alter the premises without the landlord's written consent.
- › Not use the property for any unlawful purpose.
- › Leave the property clean and tidy, and clear of rubbish and possessions at the end of the tenancy.

- › At the end of the tenancy, leave all keys and such things with the landlord. Leave all chattels supplied with the tenancy.
- › If a maximum number of occupants is stated in the tenancy agreement, not exceed that number.

7. Rights of entry

The landlord shall enter the premises only:

- › with the tenant's consent at the time of entry
- › in an emergency
- › for necessary maintenance or repairs, compliance or preparation for compliance with any requirements regarding smoke alarms, insulation and healthy homes standards, from 8 am to 7 pm, after 24 hours' notice
- › for an inspection of the property or work done by the tenant, from 8 am to 7 pm after 48 hours' notice
- › with the tenant's prior consent, to show the premises to prospective tenants, purchasers, registered valuer or real estate agent doing an appraisal, or other expert engaged in appraising the premises
- › consent may not be unreasonably withheld but reasonable conditions may be imposed
- › to test for contamination, after 48 hours' notice.

8. Subletting and assignment

If not expressly prohibited by the landlord, the tenant may sublet or assign with the landlord's prior written consent.

Consent may not be unreasonably withheld unless subletting or assignment is totally prohibited by this agreement.

9. Locks

Locks can only be changed with the agreement of both the tenant and the landlord. They should be provided and maintained in a secure state by the landlord.

10. Insulation

- › Landlords must disclose the extent of insulation in their properties in a signed statement as part of any new tenancy agreement.
- › Landlords must provide ceiling and underfloor insulation that meets minimum standards unless they meet an exception. In the case of an exception, the landlord must explain how it applies.
- › Landlords must make all reasonable efforts to obtain the required information. This includes physically looking, engaging a professional to do an assessment and/or checking the council building file.

11. Insurance

- › Landlords must disclose whether or not the property is insured in a statement as part of any new tenancy agreement, and if so, the excess amount of any relevant policies. They must also include a statement informing the tenant that a copy of their insurance policy is available on request.

- › Landlords must provide tenants with this insurance information (if requested within a reasonable timeframe) and provide updated information within a reasonable timeframe if insurance information changes, or (where they are not the insurance holder) within a reasonable timeframe of becoming aware of the changes.
- › If tenants or their guests damage a rental property as a result of careless behaviour, the tenant is only liable for the cost of the damage up to four weeks' rent or the insurance excess (if applicable), whichever is lower. Tenants on income-related rents are liable for the cost of the damage up to four weeks' market rent or the insurance excess (if applicable), whichever is lower.
- › Tenants will be liable for the full cost of damage that they or their guests cause intentionally or that results from an act or omission that constitutes an imprisonable offence.

12. Healthy Homes Standards

Landlords must include a statement in the tenancy agreement, which confirms:

- › that on and after the commencement of the tenancy, the landlord will comply with the healthy homes standards as required by section 45(1)(bb) of the Residential Tenancies Act, **or**
- › that the landlord already complies with the healthy homes standards as required by section 45(1)(bb) of the Residential Tenancies Act

This statement can be combined with the insulation statement, with one signature.

13. Notice to terminate tenancy

(NB: This does not apply to fixed-term tenancies. Notice requirements for fixed-term tenancies are contained in the main body of this agreement.)

In all cases, the tenant must give the landlord 21 days' notice in writing.

The landlord may give 42 days' notice in writing – and must state the reason for termination if:

- › the landlord has an unconditional agreement to sell the premises with vacant possession; or
- › the premises are required as the principal place of residence for the owner or any member of that owner's family; or
- › the premises are required for an employee of the landlord and this has been agreed at the start of the tenancy.

The tenant can terminate the tenancy with two days' notice if the property was an unlawful residential premises at the start of the tenancy and it is still an unlawful residential premises. This applies to both fixed term and periodic tenancies.

In other cases, the landlord must give 90 days' notice in writing.

14. Termination by Tribunal

The landlord may apply to the Tenancy Tribunal for a termination order where:

- › the rent is 21 days in arrears
- › the tenant has caused or threatened to cause substantial damage to the premises
- › the tenant has assaulted, or threatened to assault, the landlord, a member of the landlord's family, or a neighbour
- › the tenant has failed to comply with a 14 days' notice to remedy a breach
- › the premises are unlawful residential premises.

A tenant may apply to the Tenancy Tribunal for a work order, compensation or to terminate the tenancy, if the landlord has breached the tenancy agreement or the Residential Tenancies Act, or if the property is an unlawful residential premises.

15. Mitigation of loss

If one party to the tenancy agreement breaches it, the other party must take all reasonable steps to limit the damage or loss arising from the breach.

16. Unit Title Property

The landlord must notify the tenant of any variations to body corporate rules affecting the premises.

The landlord and tenant agree that:

1. The tenancy shall commence on the _____ day of _____ 20 _____ .

2. **Strike out one option:**

This is a periodic tenancy and may be ended by either party giving notice as required under the *Residential Tenancies Act 1986*

OR

This tenancy is for a fixed term, ending on the _____ day of _____ 20 _____ .

NB: Fixed-term tenancies automatically become periodic upon expiry of the fixed-term unless either party gives the other written notice of their Intention not to continue with the tenancy. That notice must be given no more than 90 days, and no less than 21 days, before the end of the fixed-term. If the landlord grants the tenant a right to renew the fixed-term, they should state this below under Number 4. The tenant may exercise this right by informing the landlord in writing no less than 21 days before the end of the fixed-term.

3. **Strike out the bold section below if it is not applicable**

The tenant shall not assign or sublet the tenancy **without the landlord’s written consent**.

4. **Insert other terms of this tenancy (eg. pets, maximum number of occupants, reimbursement of recovery costs, right of renewal if tenancy is a fixed-term)**

If necessary, please continue on a separate sheet and attach it to this agreement and ensure that all parties have signed and dated it.

INSURANCE STATEMENT

This insurance statement form is also available as a standalone form on the website for landlords, property managers and boarding house managers who can attach it to their own agreement.

Provisions

- › Landlords must disclose whether or not the property is insured in a statement as part of any new tenancy agreement, and if so, the excess amount of any relevant policies. They must also include a statement informing the tenant that a copy of their insurance policy is available on request.
- › Landlords must provide tenants with this insurance information (if requested within a reasonable timeframe) and provide updated information within a reasonable timeframe if insurance information changes, or (where they are not the insurance holder) within a reasonable timeframe of becoming aware of the changes.
- › If tenants or their guests damage a rental property as a result of careless behaviour, the tenant is only liable for the cost of the damage up to four weeks' rent or the insurance excess (if applicable), whichever is lower. Tenants on income-related rents are liable for the cost of the damage up to four weeks' market rent or the insurance excess (if applicable), whichever is lower.
- › Tenants will be liable for the full cost of damage that they or their guests cause intentionally or that results from an act or omission that constitutes an imprisonable offence.

Insurance statement

Landlords must either complete this form or attach a statement containing the same information.

There is insurance covering this rental property Yes No

If you have insurance covering this rental property, advise the excess amounts of all relevant insurance policies for this property.

| Name/type of policy | Insurer | Excess amount |
|---------------------|---------|---------------|
| 1. | | \$ |
| 2. | | \$ |
| 3. | | \$ |
| 4. | | \$ |

The insurance policy for this property is available for the tenant if they request it.

If these insurance details change and the information above or the policy documents are no longer correct, you must provide the correct information to your tenant within a reasonable time.

Signatures

Do not sign this agreement unless you understand and agree with everything in it

The landlord and tenant sign here to show that they agree to all the terms and conditions in the tenancy agreement and that each party has read the notes on pages 2, 3 and 4 of this agreement. This is a legally binding contract.

Signed by _____ Date signed _____
LANDLORD

Signed by _____ Date signed _____
TENANT

Signed by _____ Date signed _____
TENANT

Signed by _____ Date signed _____
TENANT

INSULATION STATEMENT

Landlords must either complete this form or attach a signed insulation statement containing the same information.

1. Does insulation meet the minimum requirements for ceiling insulation?¹

Yes No

If no, explain specifically what exception applies and which room(s) it applies to.

(e.g. professional installer cannot access skillion ceiling above bedroom 2).

2. Does insulation meet the minimum requirements for underfloor insulation?

Yes No

If no, explain specifically what exception applies and which room(s) it applies to.

(e.g. professional installer cannot access subfloor space safely).

Ceiling insulation

Location/coverage

Complete (all rooms)
 Partial (specify areas not insulated):

None
 I don't know as ceiling space is not accessible in the following areas (specify reason for inaccessibility)²

Type

Segments/Blankets
 Loose-fill
 Other (specify) _____
 Ceiling space is not accessible

Bulk Insulation value (R-value): _____ or minimum thickness: _____

Age of ceiling insulation (if known): _____

Condition

Insulation is in at least a reasonable condition (if not, please explain why):

Insulation has no gaps other than clearances where required (e.g. around older style downlights and chimney flues)

Ceiling space is not accessible

Underfloor insulation

Location/coverage

Complete (all rooms)
 Partial (specify areas not insulated):

None
 I don't know as underfloor space is not accessible in the following areas (specify reason for inaccessibility):²

The Building Act 2004 bans the installation and/or repair of foil insulation in residential buildings with existing electrical installations. Anyone doing so may be liable to a fine of up to \$200,000. Foil insulation which is in reasonable condition does not need to be replaced. Existing foil installation which is damaged (e.g. torn, foil hanging down off the floor joists or is no longer reflective) must be replaced with insulation which meets legal requirements.

¹ For guidance on exceptions and requirements, refer to MBIE's *Insulation Requirements – A guide for Landlords*: www.tenancy.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Insulation-requirements.pdf

² See www.tenancy.govt.nz/maintenance-and-inspections/insulation/insulation-grants/ for examples of access exceptions that may apply.

Type

- Segments/Blankets
- Polystyrene
- Foil
- Bulk Insulation with foil lining
- Other (specify) _____
- Underfloor space is not accessible

Bulk Insulation value (R-value): _____ or minimum thickness (n/a for foil): _____

Age of underfloor insulation (if known): _____

Condition

- Insulation is in at least a reasonable condition (if not, please explain why): _____
- Insulation has no gaps other than clearances where required (e.g. around pipes)
- Underfloor space is not accessible

Wall insulation

Location/coverage

- Complete (all rooms)
- Partial (specify areas not insulated): _____
- None
- I don't know as wall insulation is not accessible

**Wall insulation is not compulsory.
However, you must provide this
information where it is known.**

Supplementary Information

Any other details about the type or condition if known: _____

Date insulation was last upgraded _____ or N/A

Date insulation was professionally assessed _____ or N/A

Landlord Statement

I/we, _____ (name of landlord(s)) declare that the information contained in this insulation statement is true and correct as at the date of signing and that all reasonable efforts have been made to obtain information about the location, type and condition of insulation at the premises.

Healthy Homes Standards Statement

Strike out one option

I/we, _____ (name of the landlord(s)) **will comply** with the healthy homes standards as required by section 45(1)(bb) of the Residential Tenancies Act.

I/we, _____ (name of the landlord(s)) **already comply** with the healthy homes standards as required by section 45(1)(bb) of the Residential Tenancies Act.

Signed by _____ Date signed _____
LANDLORD

PROPERTY INSPECTION REPORT

This report is intended to help avoid disputes

This should be used to record the condition of the property at the start of the tenancy.

The landlord and the tenant should fill out this form together, and tick the appropriate box if the condition is acceptable, or record any damage or defects.

| ROOM AND ITEM | | CONDITION ACCEPTABLE? | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------|
| | | LANDLORD | TENANTS | DAMAGE/DEFECTS |
| LOUNGE | Wall/Doors | | | |
| | Lights/Power points | | | |
| | Floors/FI. Coverings | | | |
| | Windows | | | |
| | Blinds/Curtains | | | |
| KITCHEN/DINING | Wall/Doors | | | |
| | Lights/Power points | | | |
| | Floors/FI. Coverings | | | |
| | Windows | | | |
| | Blinds/Curtains | | | |
| | Cupboards | | | |
| | Sinks/Benches | | | |
| | Oven | | | |
| | Refrigerator | | | |
| BATHROOM | Wall/Doors | | | |
| | Lights/Power points | | | |
| | Floors/FI. Coverings | | | |
| | Windows | | | |
| | Blinds/Curtains | | | |
| | Mirror/Cabinet | | | |
| | Bath | | | |
| | Shower | | | |
| | Wash basin | | | |
| | Toilet (WC) | | | |
| LAUNDRY | Wall/Doors | | | |
| | Lights/Power points | | | |
| | Floors/FI. Coverings | | | |
| | Windows | | | |
| | Blinds/Curtains | | | |
| | Washing machine | | | |
| BEDROOM 1 | Wash tub | | | |
| | Wall/Doors | | | |
| | Lights/Power points | | | |
| | Floors/FI. Coverings | | | |
| | Windows | | | |
| | Blinds/Curtains | | | |
| BEDROOM 2 | Wall/Doors | | | |
| | Lights/Power points | | | |
| | Floors/FI. Coverings | | | |
| | Windows | | | |
| | Blinds/Curtains | | | |
| BEDROOM 3 | Wall/Doors | | | |
| | Lights/Power points | | | |
| | Floors/FI. Coverings | | | |
| | Windows | | | |
| | Blinds/Curtains | | | |

