



Comparing Rental Costs

When looking for a place to live, check out all the costs. Before applying to a rental unit or signing a rental agreement or lease, ask questions to determine all of the costs you would be expected to pay. Use the chart to help you compare the total costs of rental units.

Unit	#1	#2	#3
Expense (initial cost)			
Security deposit			
Application deposit*			
Other (for example, 1 st & last month rent)			
Total	\$	\$	\$
Monthly Cost			
Rent			
Utilities			
Water & sewer			
Trash pick-up			
Parking			
Garage/storage			
Cable			
Internet			
Maintenance (for example, lawn, snow)			
Laundry			
Transportation			
Other			
Total			
Money needed 1st month	\$	\$	\$

*A landlord may charge a prospective tenant the actual cost (up to \$20) to obtain a consumer credit report ONLY from a national consumer reporting agency. The landlord must notify the tenant of this charge before requesting the report, give the tenant a copy of the report and allow the tenant to provide their own report if it is less than 30 days old.

*If landlord requires tenant to pay an earnest money deposit with rental application, landlord has 3 business days after accepting the deposit to accept the tenant or return the earnest money. If the landlord rejects the rental application, the landlord must return the entire earnest money deposit to the applicant by the end of the next business day after rejecting the application. If an applicant decides not to rent after the landlord accepts their application, the landlord may withhold actual costs or damages from the deposit.

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