



Finding somewhere to live

An easy read guide



Moving into a new home can be very stressful.

There are lots of things you have to think about.



You need to take time to make sure you find the right sort of home for you.



You need to make sure that you can afford to live there and pay all the bills.

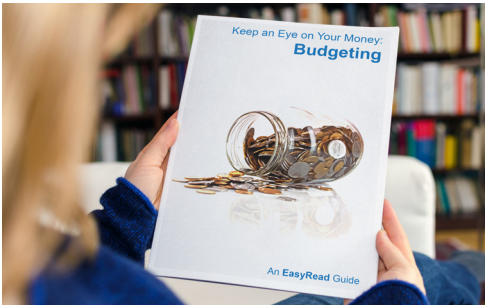


You need to do everything you can to make your move go as smoothly as possible.

What can you afford?



The first thing you need to do is work out how much rent you can afford to pay every month.



A good way to do this is to work out your budget.

You can do by using our easy read guide to making a budget.



As well as your rent you will have to pay a deposit.



This is money that your landlord holds onto while you live in the house or flat.

It is used if anything gets damaged or you don't pay your rent.



You also need to have enough money to pay your bills every month like gas, electricity and council tax.



You might be able to get some benefits to help.

Check with your local council.



Think about other things you might need to pay for.



Is there a fridge and washing machine in the house or will you have to buy one?



Will you need to buy new furniture or a television?



Try looking in charity shops or on internet sites for second hand things if you are short of money.



Once you have worked out how much rent you can afford to pay you can start looking for houses.

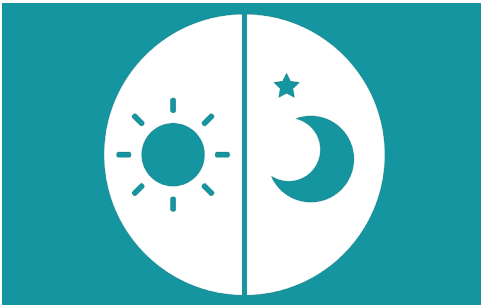


Think about the area you want to live in.

It's very important that you are happy and feel safe.



Make sure that you are near all the things that you need to be like shops, bus routes, and schools if you have children.



Check the area at different times of the day.



There might be a pub close to the house that gets very noisy at night.

There might be a shop that gets lots of deliveries early in the morning.

Applying



Once you have found a house or flat that you like you will need to apply to the landlord or letting agency.



You will have to fill in some forms and they will do some checks.

This is to make sure you can afford to pay the rent.



You will have to sign a tenancy agreement. This will have everything on it that you need to do, like what day to pay the rent or how much notice you have to give if you move out.



Make sure you read the agreement before you sign it.

If there is anything on it that you don't understand or don't think is right then talk to the agent or landlord.

For more accessible information on a broad range of subjects please contact



the home of accessible information



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