

Renting works for me

a practical worksheet for renters



BUDGET CALCULATION		
Monthly take-home pay	\$	What hits your bank account every month
X 30%	\$	That's 0.3 for those of you who haven't taken math class in a few years
- Monthly renter's insurance	\$	This varies by location and underlying coverage but ranges from \$10-\$20 per month on average.
- Utilities	\$	Including electricity, heating/cooling, water and trash this can vary widely based on the size of your apartment and the buildings amenities. Budget at least \$250 per month but be prepared to pay more during peak heating and cooling season.
= Max monthly rent	\$	Stay within your budget to give you the breathing room to achieve your other financial goals.

Checklist:

- ☐ Define your budget and must-haves
- ☐ Research neighborhoods (commute, safety, amenities)
- ☐ Search listings (Zillow, Apartments.com, Street Easy, local brokers)
- ☐ Tour apartment and ask questions
- ☐ Review your lease agreement
- ☐ Know your rights as a tenant
- ☐ Document move-in condition with photos

