

Residential Tenancy Agreement

Residential Tenancies Act 1997 / Residential Tenancies Regulations 2008



Collie & Tierney

Conditions of Agreement

1. Condition of the premises

The Landlord must-

- a) Ensure that the premises are maintained in good repair; and
- b) If the landlord owns or controls the common areas relating to those premises, take reasonable steps to ensure that the common areas are maintained in good repair.

2. Damage to the premises

- a) The TENANT must ensure that care is taken to avoid damaging the rented premises.
- b) The TENANT must take reasonable care to avoid damaging the premises and any common areas.
- c) The TENANT who becomes aware of damage to the rented premises must give notice to the LANDLORD of any damage to the premises as soon as practicable.

3. Cleanliness of the premises

- a) The LANDLORD must ensure that the premises are in a reasonable clean condition on the day on which it is agreed that the TENANT is to enter into occupation of the premises.
- b) The TENANT must keep the premises in a reasonably clean condition during the period of agreement.

4. Use of premises

- a) The TENANT must not use or allow the premises to be used for any illegal purpose.
- b) The TENANT must not use or allow the premises to be used in such a manner as to cause a nuisance or cause an interference with the reasonable peace, comfort or privacy of any occupier of neighbouring premises.

5. Quiet enjoyment

The LANDLORD must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the TENANT has quiet enjoyment of the premises.

6. Assignment or sub-letting

- a) The TENANT must not assign or sub-let the whole or any part of the premises without the written consent of the LANDLORD. The LANDLORD's consent must not be unreasonably withheld.
- b) The LANDLORD must not demand or receive any fee or payment for the consent, except in respect of any fees, cost or charges incurred by the landlord in relation to the preparation of a written assignment of the agreement.

7. Residential Tenancies Act 1997

Each party must comply with the **Residential Tenancies Act 1997**.

*(NOTE: Reference should be made to the **Residential Tenancies Act 1997** for further rights and duties.)*

8. Ancillary use of the premises

The tenant must primarily use the premises as a residence. If the tenant wants to use the premises as a residence and for an ancillary purpose, the tenant must first obtain the landlord's written consent. The landlord will not unreasonably withhold consent and in giving consent may impose reasonable terms and conditions.

9. Utility Charges

9.1 The landlord is liable for the costs and charges set out in section 53(1) and (if applicable section 54 of the **Residential Tenancies Act 1997**). *(Note: Details of the costs and charges are available at www.parliament.vic.gov.au click on "Legislation and Bills" then click on "Victorian Law Today" and follow the prompts).*

9.2 The tenant is liable for the costs and charges set out in section 52 of the **Residential Tenancies Act 1997**. *(Note: details of the costs and charges are available at www.parliament.vic.gov.au click on "Legislation and Bills" then click on "Victorian Law Today" and follow the prompts).*

9.3 If a service is damaged or disconnected because of the fault of the landlord or the agent or the fault of their contactors the landlord must have the service repaired or reconnected and pay the expense of doing so.

9.4 If a service is damaged or disconnected because of the fault of the tenant or any person the tenant has allowed or permitted to be on the premises, the tenant must have the service repaired or reconnected and pay the expense of doing so.

9.5 If the tenant disconnects or changes the supplier of a service, the tenant must pay any expense in connection with having the service disconnected and another service connected.

10. Landlord insurance

10.1 The tenant will not knowingly do or allow anything to be done on the premises that may invalidate the landlord's insurance policies or result in the premiums being increased above the normal rate.

10.2 The tenant agrees to pay to the landlord any excess incurred as a result of the accidental breakage of glass, toilet bowls, or wash basins in the premises if the damage has been caused by the tenant or by a person the tenant has allowed or permitted to be on the premises. The obligation does not apply if the accidental breakage is caused by the landlord, the agent or their contractors.

10.3 The tenant acknowledges that the landlord's insurance policies do not provide over for the tenant's possessions. *(Note: It is strongly recommended the tenant takes out contents insurance to adequately cover his/her possessions).*

11. Light globes and fluorescent tubes

The TENANT must replace all damaged, defective, or broken light globes, spotlights and/or fluorescent tubes (including starters) during the term, at the tenant's expense. This obligation does not extend to replacing light globes, spotlights, and/or fluorescent tubes (including starter) damaged, broken or made defective by the landlord or the agent or their contractors.

12. Tenant to advise landlord or agent of defects

The tenant must notify the landlord or agent as soon as practicable upon becoming aware in the premises that might injure a person or cause damage to the premises.

13. Damage to the premises

13.1 The tenant must take reasonable measures to ensure that anyone the tenant has allowed or permitted to be on the premises does not cause damage to the premises. This obligation does not extend to the landlord, the agent or their contractors.

13.2 The tenant must as soon as practicable notify the landlord or the agent of any blockages or defects in drains, water services, or sanitary systems. No item that could cause blockage (including but not limited to feminine hygiene products, disposable nappies, or excessive amounts of toilet paper) may be flushed down the sewerage, septic, storm water, or drainage systems. The tenant must pay all reasonable expenses that are incurred in rectifying defects or blockages that are caused by the tenant or a person the tenant has allowed or permitted to be on the premises. This obligation does not extend to defects or blockages caused by the landlord, the agent or their contractors.

13.3 The tenant will indemnify the landlord for any loss or damage caused to the premises by the tenant or a person the tenant has allowed or permitted to be on the premises. The indemnity does not apply to loss or damage caused by the premises. The indemnity does not apply to loss or damage caused by the landlord, the agent or their contractors.

13.4 The tenant will indemnify the landlords against liability for injury or loss sustained by any person or a person's property because of the negligence of the tenant or the negligence of a person the tenant has allowed or permitted to be on the premises. The indemnity does not apply to injury or loss caused by the landlord, the agent or their contractors.

14. Cleaning carpets on vacating the premises

If new carpet has been installed or the existing carpet has been professionally dry or steam cleaned at the commencement of the tenancy (and the landlord or agent has produced a copy receipt for payment, upon request), the tenant will have the carpet professionally dry or steam cleaned upon vacating the premises and provide the landlord or agent with a receipt for payment of the work.

15. Fasteners, antennas and signs

The tenant must obtain the landlord's or the agent's written consent before painting or affixing any sign or antenna or cabling to the inside or outside of the premises. The landlord's or the agent's consent is also required before any nail, screw, or other fastener or adhesive is affixed to the inside or outside of the premises. The landlord's or the agent's consent will not be unreasonably withheld but may be given subject to reasonable conditions. Reasonable conditions include (but are not limited to) removal of the object affixed when the tenancy is terminated or comes to an end and the making good of any damage caused to the premises by the installation or removal of that object.

16. Smoke detectors

16.1 The tenant must conduct regular checks to ensure smoke detectors are in proper working order. *(Note: regular checks are a requirement for the safety of occupants and security of the rented premises).*

16.2 The tenant must as soon as practicable notify the landlord or the agent if a smoke detector is not in proper working order.

16.3 The tenant must replace expired or faulty smoke detector batteries and in any event replace smoke detector batteries on every day light saving change.

16.4 "Replacement batteries" must be new, of a reputable brand, and have suitable durability.

17. Flammable liquids, kerosene heaters and vehicle and boat repairs

17.1 The tenant must not store lubricants or flammable liquids (including but not limited to kerosene and motor fuels) at the premises.

17.2 the tenant must not service or repair a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or boat at the premises, excepting minor routine maintenance (excluding greasing, de-greasing and oil changing), and washing and polishing.

17.3 The tenant must not bring on to or use at the premises a portable heater which uses flammable liquid or bottled gas.

18. Storage and removal of waste and rubbish

The tenant must store all rubbish and waste in appropriate receptacles with close fitting lids. Rubbish and /or waste receptacles must be kept in the place specifically provided for the purpose (if any). The tenant must have rubbish and waste regularly removed.

19. Washing

If the tenant hangs washing outside or airs articles, the clothes line (if any) provided with the premises must be used. The tenant must not hang washing or air articles on common property, unless facilities for doing so are provided for the tenant's use. The tenant must use the facilities in the manner required by the owners' corporation.

20. Garden

20.1 The tenant will maintain the garden (if any) of the premises including the lawn, trees, shrubs, plants, and garden beds in a neat and tidy condition, free of weeds and so far as is reasonably possible free of garden pests and properly watered (water restrictions if any permitting). When watering, the tenant must comply with restrictions, if any.

20.2 If the garden is watered by a watering system and/or via tank water, the tenant will maintain the system and/or tank(s) in the state of repair and condition it or they were in at the start of the tenancy (fair wear and tear excepted). The tenant is not required to repair damage caused by the landlord, the agent or their contractors.

21. Pets

The tenant must not keep any animal, bird, or other pet on the premises without first obtaining the written permission of the landlord or the agent. Permission will not be unreasonably withheld. In giving permission, the landlord or the agent may impose reasonable conditions including exercise. It is not unreasonable for the landlord or the agent to withhold permission if the rules of an owners' corporation prohibits pets being on common property or kept on the premises. If an occupant of the premises is legally blind, permission will not be required for the occupant to have a trained guide dog on the premises, unless permission must be obtained from an owners' corporation.

22. Changes in occupation of the premises

22.1 If during the term of the tenancy the people in occupation of the premises change, the tenant must as soon as practicable notify the landlord or the agent in writing and comply with clause 6.

22.2 If the tenant assigns the tenancy or sub-lets, contrary to clause 6, or if the tenant abandons the premises or cancels the tenancy, the tenant may be required to reimburse the landlord's reletting expenses including:

- A pro-rata letting fee;
- Advertising or marketing expenses incurred;
- Rental data base checks on applicants;
- Rent on the premises until such time as the lease is assigned or cancelled or the expiry of the tenancy, whichever first occurs.

22.3 The tenant's obligation to pay the landlord's reletting expenses is dependent upon the landlord taking reasonable steps to mitigate any loss arising from the tenant's default.

23. Tenant intending to leave when the lease ends

If the tenant intends to vacate the premises at the end of the tenancy, written notice of the tenant's intention to vacate must be given to the landlord or the agent 28 days before the tenancy comes to an end.

24. Return of keys and obligation to pay rent

The tenant must return all the keys of the premises to the landlord or the agent when the tenant vacates the premises. The tenant's obligation to pay the rent continues until the time the keys are returned, subject to the landlord taking reasonable steps to mitigate any loss by attempting to relet the premises.

25. Tenant remaining in possession after the tenancy ends

If the tenant remains in occupation of the premises after the tenancy has come to an end and does not then enter into a fixed term lease, the tenant must give written notice of intention to vacate the premises specifying a termination date that is not less than 28 days after the day on which the tenant gives notice to the landlord or agent.

26. Landlord requiring the premises when the lease ends

If the landlord requires possession of the premises when the lease ends, the landlord will give the tenant a notice in the manner required by the **Residential Tenancies Act 1997**.

27. Changing locks and alarm code

27.1 The tenant may change the locks of the premises. If the tenant changes the locks, the tenant must give the landlord or the agent duplicate keys to the changed locks as soon as practicable.

27.2 The tenant may change the code of an alarm at the premises. If the code is changed, the tenant must advise the landlord or the agent of the changed code as soon as practicable.

28. "To Let" signs

The tenant will allow the landlord or the agent to erect a "To Let" sign on the premises during the last month of the tenancy.

29. "Auction" and "For Sale" signs

The tenant will allow the landlord or the agent to erect an "auction" or a "for sale" sign on the premises at any time.

30. Access to the property whilst "For Sale", "Auction" or "To Let"

The Tenant shall permit access to the premises by the landlord or his agent to present the property to prospective purchasers or tenants upon 24 hours notice or by agreement with the tenant and the landlord or the landlords' agent.

31. Tenant cannot use bond money to pay rent

30.1 The tenant acknowledges the **Residential Tenancies Act 1997** provides the tenant may not refuse to pay rent on the ground a tenant intends to regard the bond as rent paid in respect of the premises.

30.2 The tenant further acknowledges the **Residential Tenancies Act 1997** permits the **Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal** to impose a penalty if it is satisfied a breach of the bond requirements of the Act has occurred.

32. Increase the rent

31.1 Unless this tenancy agreement provides otherwise, during the term of the tenancy agreement the landlord may increase the rent by giving the tenant 60 days notice required by the **Residential Tenancies Regulations 2008**. The landlord must not increase the rent more than once in every 6 months

31.2 If the tenant disagrees with a rent increase sought by the landlord, the tenant may apply to the Director of consumer Affairs Victoria for an investigation, providing the application to the Director is made within 30 days after the notice of the rent increase is given.

33. Smoking

The Tenant agrees not to smoke or allow anyone to smoke inside the premises at any time. The tenant will be liable for any smoke related damage caused to the premises.

34. Lease Break

If breaking the lease, the following conditions will apply.

- (a) The tenant is responsible for and must pay rent until the commencement date of the Tenants/s Tenancy Agreement or until the expiration of the lease, whichever is the soonest.
- (b) The tenant must pay our agency all re-letting costs these include:
 - A pro rata lease break fee, based on the remaining months of the fixed Term Lease Agreement calculated from 1.5 weeks rental + GST per annum. Upon finding a tenant the leasing fee will be calculated and repayed to the tenant.
 - Cost incurred from advertising the property on the internet, newspaper, and for a "to let" sign in order to relet the property. A total of \$110.00
 - Lower Murray water special meter reading fee of \$45.05(if applicable)