



# ASHBYPARTNERS

## TENANT GUIDE



## WELCOME

We are sure you will have some questions regarding renting with Ashby Partners and living in your new property.

The following booklet has been compiled to assist you with navigating the often tricky sections of legislation imposed by local authorities.

The legislation may change throughout your tenancy, so please look to your property manager for guidance. Your property manager is an expert in the rules and regulations, this guide will provide you with a reference point for many items that may occur during a tenancy.

We welcome you to Ashby Partners and look forward to working with you.

## NEWS & STORIES FOR THIS ISSUE:

**To stay up to date with your rental property, you have 24 hour access through our website to your tenant portal. Simply click 'Portal Login' under the Tenant Tab at [www.ashbypartners.com.au](http://www.ashbypartners.com.au)**



## MOVING INTO YOUR RENTAL PROPERTY

### CONDITION REPORT

You will be provided two copies of the condition report upon taking possession of the property to record any items that might have been overlooked by our agents. You will retain one copy of the report and return the other copy within fourteen (14) days. Please return the report via email to [pm@ashbypartners.com.au](mailto:pm@ashbypartners.com.au).

### BOND

You will be required pay a bond equal to four (4) weeks rent. Bond is due upon signing the residential tenancy agreement. . Please be aware you will not be able to move into the property until the bond amount is paid in full and funds have cleared the Ashby Partners Trust Account.

**We interviewed veteran real estate professionals on how homeowners can improve their homes' value.**

### UTILITIES AND WATER

You are responsible for the connection and payment associated with all utility accounts. This includes but isn't limited to; gas, electricity, telephone, Internet, cable television and water. Due to safety, liability and insurance purposes, we cannot provide you a copy of the keys prior to your lease start date. It is recommended that you organise connection for the day you are due to move in to the property.

### INSURANCE

Ashby Partners encourages all tenants to have comprehensive insurance that covers loss or damage to their contents. When purchasing a policy, you should consider your public liability risk in the event the property is damaged or injury occurs at the property.





## LIVING IN YOUR RENTAL PROPERTY

### USE OF PREMISES

You are only authorised to use the premises for residential purposes unless otherwise agreed in writing. If you would like to operate a business from home, please email your request to [pm@ashbypartners.com.au](mailto:pm@ashbypartners.com.au). Please be aware that the landlord has the discretion to refuse a request to run a business from the premises.

As a tenant of Ashby Partners, you and your guests have an obligation to;

- Not use the premises for illegal purposes.
- Not to cause a nuisance or disturb neighbours.
- Keep the premises in a reasonable state of cleanliness.
- Notify the agency if the premise is vacant for more than three (3) weeks
- Not exceed the number of authorised tenants residing at the premises

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### ROUTINE INSPECTIONS

During your tenancy, Ashby Partners will need to access the premises to carry out routine/periodic inspections. We will conduct two routine inspections in each twelve-month period of your tenancy. In addition, we will also conduct an inspection within the first month of your tenancy to ensure everything is running smoothly.



## LIVING IN YOUR RENTAL PROPERTY

**A report by James Carleston**

### UPDATING DETAILS

You are responsible for updating Ashby Partners if your contact information changes. You are to notify Ashby Partners within two (2) weeks of the change occurring via email to [pm@ashbypartners.com.au](mailto:pm@ashbypartners.com.au).

### SMOKING

Ashby Partners has a no smoking policy inside rental properties. This includes common areas and walkways in apartment/townhouse complexes. You and your guests are permitted to smoke outside the premises however you must be mindful of your surrounds. Please ensure that doors to the property are closed to prevent smoke from blowing inside the premises. It can be very costly and difficult to remove the smoke odour from surfaces such as the walls, ceiling and carpet. Please dispose the cigarette butts in a bin- you must never put them over the balcony or in garden beds.

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### MODIFYING THE PREMISES

We understand that some tenants may wish to modify the property to better suit their needs. You must receive written approval before making any modifications to the premises. You will be responsible for returning the property back to its original state when you vacate the premises unless otherwise agreed in writing. Failing to do so may result in extended bond return times.





## LIVING IN YOUR RENTAL PROPERTY

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Under the terms of your tenancy agreement you must notify your property manager of any damage or defects with the property. We have an expert team of qualified trades people to carry out repairs and maintenance. You are required as a condition of your tenancy that you report all maintenance that a tenant wouldn't be reasonably expected to do.

Please report general maintenance (not emergency maintenance) using the Ashby Partner's website. It is important that all fields are completed and as much information as possible is provided, including photos. We will make contact with you, generally via email, as soon as possible after receipt of your request.

Please ensure you check with your service provider for planned outages, prior to contacting your property manager. Failure to do so may result in a fee or charge being passed onto you. You have the option for the trades person to contact you directly to organise access to the premises, alternative access can be organised via your property manager. If you do not let the tradesperson into the property at the arranged time, additional call out costs will be forwarded onto you.

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If you require emergency maintenance to be carried out please phone your property manager immediately. Your property manager will help assess the situation. If you are unable to contact your property manager please refer to the instructions under 'Emergency Maintenance'.



## RENT ARREARS

As a tenant of Ashby Partners, you make a commitment upon signing the lease agreement that you will not fall into behind in your rent. When you move into your property we will discuss when rental payments are due and assist you in developing a convenient way to make these payments. You are expected to be paid in advance at all times.

Please keep in mind that there are delays that may occur as a result of paying rent which are outside of our control. As a tenant it is your responsibility to ensure these delays are accounted for. E.g. banks not operating on a weekend and banking transfer times.

If in the event you are unable to make a rent payment, please contact your property manager immediately; unless you communicate with us, we cannot help you. It is in your best interest to pay your rent ahead of time as being in rent arrears may affect your future tenancies. We cannot alter your ledger or deceive another agent.

If your rent remains unpaid for more than seven days, you will be issued a Notice to Remedy. You will be given seven days to pay your rent completely up to date. If you fail to do so, you will be issued a Notice to Vacate after fourteen days requesting you vacate the premises. Should you not vacate the premises during this time the owner may request we apply to the Civil Administrative Tribunal of ACT (ACAT) to seek an eviction.

Unfortunately mistakes can occur. If you feel there has been an error made by Ashby Partners please email [pm@ashbypartners.com.au](mailto:pm@ashbypartners.com.au) and supply proof you have made the payment and we will review our records.



## HOUSE KEEPING

You are required to keep your rental property clean and tidy - regular cleaning can reduce property damage and discolouration around the home that may cause an issue with your bond when you vacate. We acknowledge there will be some deterioration of the property due to normal ageing (known as 'fair wear and tear') however this does not include tenant negligence. Please refer below for some helpful hints to living at your property.

### APPLIANCE & SAFETY SWITCHES

As a tenant, it is your responsibility to ensure that all appliances you bring to the property are connected and functioning. When connecting appliance to water, such as washing machines or dishwashers, it is recommended that test the machine whilst you are home to ensure flooding does not occur. Faulty appliances when connected to a power point can cause the safety switch to trip. In the event, you do not have power please check the safety switch prior to reporting the maintenance. If a trades person is organised and the cause is your appliances, the account will be passed onto you.

### LIGHT BULBS

You are responsible for replacing and changing all blown light bulbs, throughout your tenancy. If the light fitting is defective, please advise your property manager.

### MOULD AND CONDENSATION

The best defence against mould is prevention. It is important that you properly ventilate the property by opening door and windows where possible. Please do not place wet clothes inside wardrobes. If you notice any signs of mould on walls, ceilings or furniture, please wash it off immediately. Your property manager can provide you information on cleaning mould.

### GARBAGE DISPOSAL UNIT

You must take care when using the garbage disposal. Garbage disposals frequently get blockage as they are only designed to be used for minor vegetable/fruit waste. You should regularly clean your garbage disposal using soap and cold water, then once in a while, toss the peel from a citrus fruit into the disposal to keep it fresh.





## HOUSE KEEPING

### HOT WATER SYSTEM

If your hot water is only hot for a short time or not at all, your hot water system may need to be topped up or the pilot light may be out. To top up an electric hot water system, locate the lever on the top of the hot water system until water comes out the overflow. To relight the pilot light on a gas hot water system, please refer to the instructions on the hot water system.

### TIMBER FLOORS

If your rental property has timber floors, you must take precautions to protect the floors from scratching. You should apply felt/soft rubber padding underneath all furniture to prevent scratches from movement.

### GARDENING

You are responsible for maintaining the gardens at the rental property, unless otherwise agreed. You are to clean large piles of leaves and vegetation as it is a potential fire hazard and against council regulations. You must ensure grass is kept low to reduce the risk of snakes. When watering the garden, please take into consideration council regulations.

### FILTERS

It is important to regularly clean filters throughout the property to prevent fire hazards and mould build up. The three main filters you need to consider are:

- Dryer filters should be cleaned after every use, to stop a build-up of lint which can be a fire hazard. Please be aware some dryers have filters in the front and back on the unit.
- Air conditioner filters should be cleaned approximately every three (3) months to reduce the build-up which may result in mould.
- Range hood filters should be cleaned approximately each month to remove grease. You can clean your range hood filter by placing it in the dishwasher, subject to the size restrictions.

### BATHROOMS

The best way to prevent mould and build up is to regularly clean the bathroom. You should purchase a squeegee that should be used to clean the shower screen after each use. This will remove water, which may etch into the screen if left to dry.

### SCUFF MARKS

We recommend that you use a 'Chux – Magic Eraser' to remove scuff marks. Please use following the directions on the packaging.



## VACATING YOUR RENTAL PROPERTY

**A report by James Carleston**

### NOTICE PERIODS

You can notify your property manager you wish to vacate the property by email [pm@ashbypartners.com.au](mailto:pm@ashbypartners.com.au).

Common reasons for termination by landlord:

Reason Notice Period

End of fixed term tenancy 26 weeks

Periodic tenancy 26 weeks

Sale of property 8 weeks

Breach of agreement 14 days after notice to remedy expiry

Common reasons for termination by tenant:

Reason Notice Period

End of fixed term tenancy 3 weeks

Periodic tenancy 3 weeks

Breach of agreement 14 days after notice to remedy expiry

Other reasons Seek property manager advice

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### EARLY TERMINATION

If you need to terminate your lease agreement during a fixed term tenancy, please contact your property manager immediately. Your property manager will assist in negotiating between you and the landlord to reach a mutual agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached, you will need to apply to ACAT seeking an order to terminate your lease.



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### PROSPECTIVE TENANT INSPECTIONS

As a requirement under your tenancy agreement you are required to allow reasonable access to the property during the final three (3) weeks of your tenancy, to show the property to prospective tenants. When providing your notice of vacate you will be asked to nominate two (2) week days. In addition to these two (2) inspections, an inspection will be carried out on Saturday. You will be contacted 24 hours before the inspection, by the inspecting agent.

Inspections generally take approximately 15 minutes, however may take 30 minutes depending on the number of attendees.

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### FAIR WEAR AND TEAR

'Fair wear and tear' refers to deterioration of the property due to normal aging. You are responsible for maintaining the property within the terms of your tenancy agreement, such as reporting maintenance. During the vacating inspection, your property manager will compare the notes written on the incoming condition report to the condition of the property.





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Moving can be very stressful, please refer below for tips that can be carried out before you vacate to ease the strain of moving.

### DISCONNECTING UTILITIES

You are responsible for organising disconnection of utilities. We recommend you contact your utility provider immediately after providing notice to the agency as some contracts will have notice periods from cancellation.

Please allow the utilities to stay connected for 3 days after you return the keys. During the final inspection, we need to ensure all light bulbs are working, which we will be unable to do if there is not electricity.

### MAIL REDIRECTION

You should contact your local post office to organise mail redirection. If you have mail at the property, it will be returned to sender, we cannot forward it on.

### BOOKING YOUR VACATING INSPECTION

You will be contacted by your property manager to book in the vacating inspection. Inspection can be conducted Monday to Friday between 9am – 5pm. If you are unable to attend the inspection, please notify your property manager as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements.

During the inspection, you will be required to return all keys and remotes for the property provided to you at the commencement of your tenancy.

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