



the **Money**
Advice Service

Paying your rent






➔ How to manage your
rent payments

The **Money Advice Service** is independent and set up by government to help people make the most of their money by giving free, impartial advice. As well as advice about paying your own rent, we offer information on a wide range of other money topics.

Visit our website today for advice, tips and tools to help you make informed decisions and plan for a better future.

 moneyadvice.service.org.uk

Free, impartial advice:

-  on the web
-  on the phone
-  face to face

Here to help you

This guide is for you if you've just been told you are going to have to manage your own rent payments.

It will give some tools and advice to help you keep track of your money and tell you how to best handle paying your rent and avoid getting into arrears.

This guide will show you how to:

- 1. Draw up a budget**
- 2. Set up your rent payment**
- 3. Keep your rent money separate**

1

Draw up a budget

Did you know?

Four in five people who set a budget stick to it most of the time. Keeping to a budget gives you peace of mind and helps you to stay in control of your money.*



List all your income and outgoings

Use our online Budget planner tool (or pen and paper) to create a budget. This will show you how much money you have coming in and how much you need to spend on essential things.



Decide what to do if there's a shortfall

If you don't have enough money coming in to keep up with your rent and other bills, you'll have to look at: increasing your income, cutting your spending, or both.



Apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment

If your Housing Benefit or Universal Credit doesn't cover all of your rent, you might be able to claim a short-term Discretionary Housing Payment from your council. Otherwise you'll have to make up the shortfall yourself.

Use our Budget planner tool at

 moneyadvice.service.org.uk/budgetplanner

2

Set up your rent payment

Did you know?

It's your responsibility to pay your rent in full and on time.



Set up a Direct Debit for your rent

Set up a Direct Debit or standing order to pay your landlord. This reduces the chance of a missed or late payment. Your landlord will be able to help you with this.



Ask your landlord to move your rent day

See if you can move the day you pay your rent to just after your Housing Benefit or Universal Credit is paid. That way as soon as the extra money comes into your account, it goes straight out again.



Always make the rent your top priority

If you don't pay your rent in full and on time you risk losing your home. Don't be tempted to dip into your rent for spending on other things.

Find out more about setting up Direct Debits and standing orders at

 [moneyadviceservice.org.uk/
managingyouraccount](https://moneyadviceservice.org.uk/managingyouraccount)

3

Keep your rent money separate

Did you know?

There are several different ways of keeping your rent money separate from your spending money.



Open a separate account just for your rent

Then set up a standing order so that your rent goes straight into the separate account and sits there until rent day.



Open a 'jam jar' or 'rent' account

These tend to be available from credit unions and can make it easier to manage all your bills, including your rent, by keeping your money in different 'jars'.



Get a prepaid card

Put your spending money onto your card, and leave the money for your rent (and other bills) in your bank account.

Find out more about the different types of bank accounts and their pros and cons at

 moneyadvice.service.org.uk/bankaccounts

**What if
you go
into arrears?**

Always talk to your landlord, housing association or council if you're in trouble or think you're going to be late with your rent.

- keep them up to date with your situation
- always open their letters and return their calls
- try to negotiate with them to find a practical solution

All of these things will show you are making an effort to deal with the situation.

For advice about rent arrears or eviction contact:

Shelter

0808 800 4444

[shelter.org.uk](https://www.shelter.org.uk)

Citizens Advice

[citizensadvice.org.uk](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)



**the Money
Advice Service**

Paying your rent is one of the guides available from the Money Advice Service. To see our full range of guides and request copies visit

 moneyadvice.service.org.uk/freeguides

Money Advice Line **0300 500 5000***

Typetalk **1800 1 0300 500 5000**

Sign up to the newsletter at

 moneyadvice.service.org.uk/signup

If you would like this guide in Braille, large print or audio format please contact us on the above numbers.

*Calls cost the same as a normal call, if your calls are free, it's included. To help us maintain and improve our service, we may record or monitor calls.

Information correct at time of printing (April 2015)

April 2015

© Money Advice Service April 2015
Ref: PYOR0001C