

Renter's Guide







COMPASS





What is a broker and why do you need one?

Brokers

Brokers are state-licensed real estate professionals who help you search, provide advice, and guide you through the application process. Brokers not only save you time and help you secure a fair price, they ensure that your application puts you in the best light possible so that landlords are more likely to approve you.

Why work with a Compass agent?

Our exceptional agents use best-in-class technology to make the process of renting a home intelligent and seamless. They partner with you throughout your home search, providing their expertise and deep knowledge of the New York City real estate market to act, negotiate, advise, and ensure your best interests are met in finding the perfect home.

Co-Brokers

Brokers can either represent specific apartments, specific customers, or both at once. When one broker represents you - the applicant - and another broker represents the apartment, we call this a "co-broke." In these situations, the two brokers will split the broker's commission between them.



How to Rent a Home

New York City



The Search Process

When to Start Looking: You should

start your search around 30-45 days before your ideal move-in date; however, most landlords will want prospective tenants to start their leases for vacant units within two weeks of the application date. That being said, the more you look, the more knowledgeable you will become, enabling you to make quick decisions in the moment.

Financial Requirements:

Landlords typically require tenants' combined annual salaries to equal or exceed 40x-50x the monthly rent. If you do not meet this requirement, many landlords accept guarantors, a third party who is willing to guarantee the entire rent and other provisions in the lease in case the tenants are unable to fulfill their obligation.

Guarantors:

Guarantors need to provide the same application support documents as you do. Guarantors must reside in the U.S., have excellent credit, and earn between 75x and 90x the monthly rent. More than one guarantor is allowed and in the case of roommates, may be required. Many landlords will not accept guarantors from Texas, Louisiana, or Florida, or Guarantors that are SCORPS or LLC's. There are companies out there that can act as a guarantor if you do not have one of your own. Ask us about them and how they work.

What to Prepare:

Apartments rent quickly in New York City, and having your documents in order will help you act quickly when you've found the right place. Make sure you have the following ready before you start looking:

O Letter of employment verification

Proof of employment letter printed on company letterhead and signed by a company representative stating position, start date, length of employment, salary, and opportunities for bonuses. If self-employed, a CPA letter stating annual income and source of income for current tax year and previous tax year. Signatures should be what is referred to as a "wet" signature, meaning a pen was used to sign.

- O Last two consecutive pay stubs
- O Last two years' tax returns Landlords do not require the whole tax return, just the first two pages. Tax returns should also be signed.
- O Last two years' W-2s
- O Two most recent bank statements for all accounts

These statements should include all pages, be recent, consecutive, and show your current name and address. Screen shots are not allowed. Bank statements should show sufficient assets for renting apartment.

O Reference letters from and/or contact information for previous landlords

While not always required, a reference letter could be the difference between securing and losing out on an apartment.

O Photo ID

Must be government-issued and not expired, including a driver's license or passport.

O Landlord application

Provided by the landlord's representative, this form usually allows the landlord's representative or your Compass broker to run a credit check on you.

The Application Process

Rental Apartments:

Allow 24-48 hours for the landlord to review your application. If you are approved, lease signings typically occur within the next 24–48 hours at either

the broker or management company's office.

Condos:

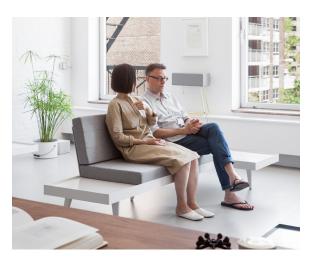
Applications are a two-step process; approval

from both the apartment owner and the condo or co-op board must be granted. The entire condo or co-op application process, from initial application to final board approval, can take anywhere from a few days to several weeks and, in some cases, may require an in-person interview.

Co-ops:

Applications take 30 days from the submission of the completed package. Rent, security, and broker commission are paid up front unless applicant is rejected.







Rental Apartments:

- O First month's rent
- O Security deposit equal to 1 months' rent
- O Broker and/or co-broker's fee

S Approval and Payment

Once you are approved, you must secure the apartment by signing the lease and paying the applicable fees. Payments at lease-signing, in the form of certified check or money order, typically include:

Condos and Co-ops:

These fees are generally higher than for a rental building. In addition to the rent, security, and broker fee amounts stated above, condo and co-op fees may include:

- O Move-in fee of \$1000 (This is often refundable after move-in)
- O Application fee of \$250-300
- O Managing agent fee of \$250-400

Additional Information





International Applicants:

Most landlords do not accept credit reports or tax documents from outside the US, so international applicants may need to provide a US guarantor or use a third party guarantor company.

Pets:

Pet policy varies by building. Communicating specifics about your pet, such as weight and breed, to your broker or prospective landlord will help you to find the buildings that best fit your (and your pet's) needs. Take a photo and have reference letters prepared. An extra pet rent or pet security deposit may be required.



Special Situations:

In cases where the applicant has a limited work history, does not have a US credit history, or does not quite meet the landlord's financial requirements, the landlord will sometimes ask for a US guarantor.

Roommates:

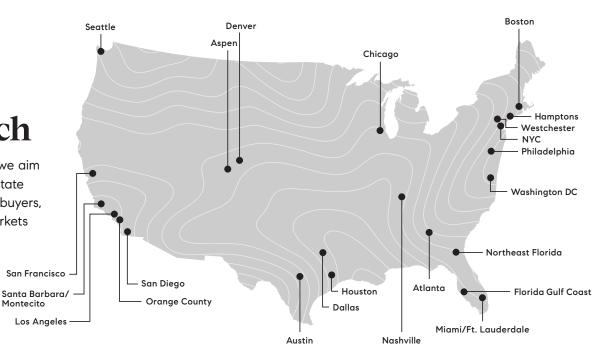
Landlords typically require all roommates and guarantors to fill out a full application, submit personal documentation, and sign the lease.





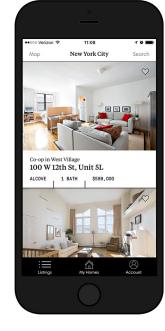
Our Reach

As Compass expands, we aim to bring smarter real estate experiences to renters, buyers, and sellers in major markets across the nation.



Our Vision

Explore our brand—and the design, technology, and entrepreneurship we build upon—on the beautiful compass.com



Our Technology

Access real-time data from anywhere using our Compass app, designed by our in-house product and engineering team to deliver the industry's most valuable insights.

Have you thought about putting your rent towards owning a home? Ask about our Buyer's Guide.