



Finding somewhere to live from a private landlord

You may have to wait a long time for a property with a housing association as there are a lot of people waiting.

Finding a property from a private landlord is sometimes the best option as you have more choice on the location and type of place you want to live in.



Where to find somewhere to live

There are lots of different places you can look for somewhere to live.



Newspapers

There are different newspapers that have adverts in for letting agents and private landlords. These can be found at local newsagents and are on sale weekly or daily.



Letting Agents

Letting agents let and manage rooms, flats and houses on behalf of someone else.

They will advertise in local papers and directories like the Yellow Pages. Or you can visit them and collect information on different places to live.



The Internet

Some landlords and letting agents advertise their flat or house on the internet.

You can use the internet for free at the library.

www.findaproperty.com

www.rightmove.co.uk



Deposit

When you find a place to live you will have to pay some money before you can move in.

Sometimes this can be one month's rent and one month's deposit. You may also have to pay the letting agent a fee.



You may need to save some money before you can move so that you can pay for this.

Paying for your rent

You may be able to claim housing benefit to pay for your rent.

Housing benefit pays a set amount and will depend on where the property is and who you live with.

If you are 35 years old or younger you may only be able to claim a smaller amount of rent.

If you are over 35 years old you can claim a different amount of rent.





When you find a place to live

Some landlords will ask questions about you, for example:



- How old are you?**
- Do you have children?**
- Are you working?**
- Do you smoke?**
- Do you have a pet?**



It is better to be honest if a landlord asks questions.



When you view a property give a good impression.

- Turn up on time.
- Take a reference to say you would be a good tenant.
- Dress smartly.
- Be polite.

If you need any help or advice please contact:

HomeChoice and Housing Advice Team

Town Hall
Weston-super-Mare

Telephone: 01934 426330

Email: housing.advice@n-somerset.gov.uk



Alternatively, visit your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Job Centre.