

COMMON CANADIAN HOUSING TERMS

1st (first) & last required: At the original renting of the apartment, payment of the first month's rent is required as well as the payment of the last month's rent, whenever that may be. This is generally to protect the landlord from the tenant leaving and not paying the rent in the month that they vacate the apartment. For more information, please visit the Towngown Housing Options.

Accessible: Refers to the ability to access the apartment by a wheelchair.

A/C: Air conditioning.

All Inclusive or Utilities included: "All inclusive" generally means that all of the utility costs are included in the rental fee amount. These utilities may include, but are not limited to, electricity costs, water usage and sewer costs, electric heating costs, natural gas heating costs and old heating costs. Generally the costs for telephone lines, including long-distance charges, internet connections and cable television are not included in an "all inclusive" arrangement, but it is always recommended that you clarify what the term "all inclusive" actually includes.

Appl: appliances - could mean refrigerator, stove, clothes washer, clothes dryer, dishwasher.

***Arbitrator:** A person chosen by both sides in a dispute who hears details of the dispute and gives a decision on settling the dispute.

***Assign:** transfer legal obligation to someone else, such as transferring responsibility for a lease to someone else.

***Bachelor Apartment:** An apartment consisting of one room serving as bedroom and living room, with a separate bathroom.

***Bachelorette:** A very small bachelor apartment.

***Basement Apartment:** is in the basement of a house. Because it is below ground, it doesn't usually have as much light as a first-floor apartment, but is cheaper. It is usually cooler in summer. Beware of damp or moldy basements, especially if you have asthma or other breathing problems.

BR or bdrm: Bedroom, an enclosed room for sleeping.

Cable: The term "cable" refers to "Cable Television" and is a service that is purchased from a cable television provider, giving the tenant access to many television channels.

***Eviction:** Getting someone to leave quarters he or she has been occupying. Authorized by a court of law.

Flat: an apartment in a house. The front entrance may be shared with other tenants but usually you have a lockable door to your flat.

Fridge: Refrigerator

Furn: Furnished - and may need clarification as to what is included in this term.

***Highrise:** An apartment or condominium building that is six or more storey's high.

Hrdwd: Hardwood floors.

Hydro: The term "hydro" refers to electricity.

Lease required: A lease is a legally binding agreement between the landlord and the tenant. In Ontario, a verbal tenancy agreement is as binding as a written one. For more information on leases and landlord tenant issues please review https://housing.queensu.ca/towngown/lease_type.asp

Loft bedroom: The bedroom is on a higher floor and may be the only room on that level.

On-Campus: On-campus accommodation is within a 5-minute walk to main campus.

Main Campus: Main Campus is a term used to refer to the section of Queen's University Campus located in the area dissected by Union Street and University Avenue.

NS or non-smkr: No smoking. *Some landlords will not rent to people who smoke, especially in shared apartments.

Partly Furnished: This could mean any amount of furnishing, buy most likely it would include a bed and mattress, a dresser or some type of clothing storage and a table and chair(s). It may include pots and pans, dishes, cutlery, bed and bath linens.

References needed: The landlord is asking you to provide him/her with references from your previous landlord(s) about you as a tenant.

Residence Halls: University-owned housing units located on-campus with dormitory style rooms. The rooms are furnished and have shared or private access washrooms, shared kitchens, common rooms, study rooms, storage rooms and laundry facilities.

Room in an owner's home: You rent a bedroom in a landlord's home. House rules, including the provision of food and sharing of amenities can vary considerably, so it's best to talk to the resident owner-occupier about how the house works and what they would expect of you.

Shared Houses/Apartments: Usually you rent a bedroom in a house or apartment and share the kitchen, common room, bathroom/toilet with other students. The amenities are shared between the occupants.

Self-contained Apartments: A self-contained unit where none of the facilities are shared. An apartment should have its own bathroom, toilet and kitchen.

Sq. ft. - Square feet: One square metre is equal to between nine and ten square feet. To convert square feet to square metres, multiply by 0.09.

Stove: Oven, Cooker, Range, Stove-top

***Studio:** same as bachelor.

Sublet: This term refers to the agreement that a new tenant would make between themselves and the current tenant of a property who is moving out, either permanently or for a period and expecting to return to their apartment. The current tenant whose name is on the rental agreement or lease would be vacating the property and the sublettor would be moving in and assuming responsibility for rental costs, utility costs and all other costs associated with the sublet agreement. For more information on subletting, please visit <https://housing.queensu.ca/towngown/subletting.asp>

West Campus: West Campus refers to the area of campus located on the corner of Union Street and Sir John A. Macdonald Boulevard.