



# RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ORDINANCE

## Rate of Interest on Security Deposits

Municipal code chapters 5-12-080, 5-12-081 and 5-12-170

- A landlord must give a tenant a receipt for a security deposit that includes the owner's name, the date it was received and a description of the dwelling unit. The receipt must be signed by the person accepting the security deposit.
- A landlord must pay interest each year on security deposits (eff. 11-6-86) and prepaid rent (eff. 1-1-92) held more than six months.
- The rate of interest that a landlord must pay is set each year by the City Comptroller. (eff. 7-1-97)
- Before a landlord can deduct expenses for damages from the security deposit, the landlord must provide the tenant with an itemized statement of the damages within 30 days of the date the tenant vacates the dwelling unit.
- Within 45 days of the date the tenant vacates the dwelling unit, a landlord must return all security deposit and required interest, if any, minus unpaid rent and expenses for damages.
- In the event of fire, a landlord must return all security deposit and required interest, if any, minus unpaid rent and expenses for damages, within seven days from the date that the tenant provides notice of termination of the rental agreement. (eff. 1-1-92)

Under Chapter 5-12 of the Municipal Code of Chicago sections 5-12-081 and 5-12-082, the City Comptroller shall calculate and announce on the first business day of each year, the rate of interest to be paid on security deposits. As of Jan. 1, 2020, based on information from the City Comptroller's Office, the interest rate to be paid on security deposits is 0.01%.

The rate is based upon the average of the rates of interest of the following types of accounts at Chase Bank, which is the commercial bank having the most branches located in the City of Chicago: Savings Account 0.01 percent, insured Money Market 0.01 percent and Six-month Certificate of Deposit (based on a deposit of \$1,000) 0.01 percent.

### SECURITY DEPOSIT INTEREST RATE

Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2020: 0.01%

2015 to 2019: 0.01%	2008: 1.26%	2001: 3.10%
2014: 0.013%	2007: 1.68%	2000: 2.71%
2013: 0.023%	2006: 1.71%	1999: 2.63%
2012: 0.057%	2005: 1.01%	1997: 3.38%
2011: 0.073%	2004: 0.42%	Pre-July 1997: 5%
2010: 0.073%	2003: 0.52%	
2009: 0.12%	2002: 0.83%	

For a copy of the complete Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance, visit the Office of the City Clerk, Room 107, City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St. For a copy of the Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance Summary, visit the Department of Housing, City Hall, Room 1006.



## ORDENANZA DE RESIDENCIAS PARA DUEÑOS E INQUILINOS (ARRENDATARIOS) *Tarifa de Interes en Depositos de Seguridad*

Codigo Municipal, Capitulo 5-12-080, 5-12-081 y 5-12-170

- El dueño del edificio (propietario) debe darle a su inquilino (arrendatario) un recibo por Depósito de Seguridad que incluya el nombre de la persona, la fecha cuando fue recibido y la descripción de la unidad (casa) que esta rentando. El recibo debe ser firmado por la persona aceptando el depósito de seguridad.
- El dueño del edificio debe pagar interes cada año en el depósito de seguridad (eff. 11-6-86) y renta en la prepagada (eff. 1-1-92) retenida por más de seis meses.
- La tarifa de interés que el dueño del edificio debe pagar es fijada cada año por el Controlador de la Ciudad. (eff. 7-1-97).
- Antes que el dueño del edificio pueda deducir los gastos por daños del deposito de seguridad, el dueño del edificio deberá proporcionar a su inquilino (arrendatario) una declaración detallada de los articulos dañados, dentro de los 30 dias de la fecha que el inquilino (arrendatario) deje vacante la unidad que rentaba.
- Dentro de los 45 dias de la fecha que el inquilino (arrendatario) deje vacante la unidad o casa, el dueño del edificio deberá devolver todos los depósitos de seguridad y el interés requerido, si lo hay, menos la renta sin pagar y los gastos por los daños.
- En el evento de fuego, el dueño del edificio deberá devolver todos los depósitos de seguridad y el interés requerido, si lo hay, menos la renta sin pagar y los gastos por daños, dentro de los siete dias en que el inquilino (arrendatario) proporcionó notificación de terminación del acuerdo de renta. (eff. 1-1-92)

Bajo el Capitulo 5-1 2 del Codigo Municipal de Chicago, secciones 5-12-081 y 5-12-082, el controlador de la Ciudad debera calcular y anunciar con el primer día de negocios de cada año, la tarifa de interés con la que los depósitos de seguridad serán pagados. Empezando Enero 1, del 2020 basado en la información de la Oficina del Controlador (City Comptroller's Office), la tarifa de interés en depósitos de seguridad es de 0.01 por ciento. Esta tarifa esta basada en un promedio del interés de las cuentas de ahorros regulares de los siguientes tipos de cuentas de Chase Bank, **el cual es el banco comercial que tiene mas sucursales localizadas en la Ciudad de Chicago:** Libras de Ahorros 0.01 por ciento; Dinero Asegurado por la Bolsa 0.01 por ciento; y Certificado de Deposito por seis meses (basado en depósitos de \$1,000) 0.01 por ciento.

### TARIFA DE INTERES DEPOSITO DE SEGURIDAD

Enero 1-Diciembre 31, 2020: 0.01%

2015 - 2019: 0.01%	2008: 1.26%	2001: 3.10%
2014: 0.013%	2007: 1.68%	2000: 2.71%
2013: 0.023%	2006: 1.71%	1999: 2.63%
2012: 0.057%	2005: 1.01%	1997: 3.38 %
2011: 0.073%	2004: 0.42%	Antes de Julio 1997:
2010: 0.073%	2003: 0.52%	5%
2009: 0.12%	2002: 0.83%	

Para una copia de la Ordenanza de Residencias para Dueños e Inquilinos, visite la oficina del City Clerk, Cuarto 107, 121 N. LaSalle St. Para una copia del resumen de la Ordenanza de Residencias para Dueños e Inquilinos, visite DOH, 121 N. LaSalle St., Cuarto 1006.

- Enclose in a plastic bag any personal property that will be moved through any common area of the building, or stored in any other location.

#### **Are there any exemptions to these tenant responsibilities?**

Yes. The ordinance exempts tenants who live in an assisted living or shared housing establishment, or similar living arrangement, where the establishment is required to provide the tenant assistance with activities of daily living or mandatory services. In such cases, the landlord is responsible for making the necessary preparations and removing or disposing of any personal property.

#### **What penalties can a tenant face for not complying with these requirements?**

The ordinance allows the city to issue fines to tenants for not complying with these requirements. Fines can go as high as \$2,000 for a third offense. Landlords can not fine tenants.

#### **What are my rights as a tenant under this ordinance?**

Landlords can't retaliate against a tenant if the tenant:

- Complains of a bed bug infestation to a governmental agency elected representative or public official charged with responsibility for enforcement of a building, housing, health or similar code.
- Complains of a bed bug infestation to a community organization or to the news-media.
- Seeks the assistance of a community organization or the news-media to remedy a bed bug infestation.
- Asks the landlord to provide pest control measures.
- Testifies in court concerning any bed bug infestation.

#### **What are my landlord's responsibilities under this ordinance?**

Landlords have three main responsibilities under this ordinance:

- 1) Educate tenants about bed bugs by providing this brochure when tenants sign a new or renew an existing lease or other rental agreement.
- 2) Notify tenants prior to any inspection or treatment of their apartment for bed bugs and provide instructions for preparing the apartment.
- 3) Get rid of the bed bug infestation by providing pest control services by a pest management professional.

#### **How much time does a landlord have to provide a pest management professional?**

The ordinance allows landlords up to 10 days to have a pest management professional come to inspect your apartment.

#### **Does the ordinance require any specific type of inspection or treatment?**

If bed bugs are in an apartment, there is a chance they may be found in additional apartments in that same building, especially those closest to the apartment with the bed bugs. As a result, the apartments on either side and directly above and below the apartment with the bed bugs need to be inspected and if necessary, treated. Treatment will only occur if bed bugs are found.

#### **Do these requirements apply to condominiums or cooperative building?**

Yes, but only to units that are being rented.

#### **What penalties can a landlord face for not complying with these requirements?**

The ordinance allows the city to issue fines to landlords for not complying with these requirements. Fines can go as high as \$2,000 for a third offense.

#### **What should I do if my landlord is not responsive?**

If you suspect there are bed bugs in your apartment, call your landlord immediately and follow-up in writing. Give your landlord up to 10 days to have a pest management professional come to inspect your apartment. If your landlord is not responsive, call 311 and file a complaint.

Additional information, including a copy of the ordinance, can be found at:

[www.cityofchicago.org/health](http://www.cityofchicago.org/health)

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## **Preventing BEDBUG Infestations in Apartments**



Bed bugs can be found in homes, apartments, hotels, schools, dormitories, shelters, offices and other places. This brochure provides information on bed bugs and what you should do if you have or suspect you have a bed bug infestation in your apartment. It also describes your rights and responsibilities as a tenant.

#### **Why is this brochure being provided to me?**

In 2013, the City of Chicago passed an ordinance to help address the growing problem of bed bugs. This ordinance provides that landlords and tenants share the responsibility in preventing and controlling bed bug infestations. Further, the ordinance requires that landlords provide an informational brochure on bed bugs to tenants. This informational brochure, developed by the Chicago Department of Public Health, is intended to meet this requirement.

#### **What are bed bugs?**

Bed bugs are small, flat, wingless insects. They feed on blood and can be a nuisance for individuals. They are named for their tendency to live on mattresses or other parts of a bed.

#### **What do bed bugs look like?**

Adult bed bugs are roughly the size, shape and color of an apple seed: 1/4 of an inch in length and light or reddish-brown in color. Immature forms of bed bugs are smaller and lighter in color. Eggs are tiny and white. You should be able to see the adult form with your naked eye, but may need a magnifying glass to see the immature forms or eggs. Please refer to the website listed at the end of this brochure for pictures of bed bugs.

#### **Where do bed bugs live?**

Bed bugs can be found anywhere people sleep, sit or lay down. They can be found on mattresses and box springs, especially near the piping, seams and tags, and in cracks and crevices of head boards and bed frames. They can also be found in other furniture, especially in the seams and zippers of chairs and couches, in the folds of curtains, in drawer joints, in electrical outlets, behind picture frames and in other tight spaces.

#### **How can bed bugs get into an apartment?**

Bed bugs can get into an apartment by hitching a ride on mattresses or other bedding, furniture, clothing and baggage. Once in an apartment, they can crawl from one room to another, or get into an adjacent

apartment by crawling through small cracks or holes in walls or ceilings or under doors. Because bed bugs do not have wings, they cannot fly into or around your apartment.

#### **What can I do to prevent bed bugs from getting into my apartment?**

Bed bugs can be found most anywhere, so ALWAYS be aware of your surroundings. Always check furniture and bedding, especially those bought secondhand, for signs of bed bugs before you buy them. NEVER bring items that someone else has disposed of into your apartment, as these items may be infested with bed bugs. When returning home from travel within or from outside the U.S., ALWAYS inspect your luggage carefully for signs of bed bugs before you bring the luggage into your apartment.

#### **What else can I do to prevent a bed bug infestation?**

Reduce clutter, especially in bedrooms. Store unused items in sealed containers or plastic bags. Wash and dry bedding often. Check beds and furniture for signs of bed bugs. Purchase mattress and box spring covers.

#### **Do bed bugs transmit disease?**

No, bed bugs are not known to transmit disease.

Are there other health concerns related to bed bugs?

Yes. Their bites, like those of other insects, may cause an allergic reaction with swelling, redness and itching. Their presence may cause people to be anxious and lose sleep.

#### **How do I know if I have a bed bug infestation in my apartment?**

Though bites may be an indicator of a bed bug infestation, they are generally a poor one as not all people will react to bed bug bites or the bites may be due to other reasons. The best indication of an infestation is to look for physical signs of bed bugs such as live or dead bed bugs, eggs or eggshells or tiny dark spots or reddish stains on mattresses or other places where bed bugs live.

#### **What should I do if I suspect there are bed bugs in my apartment?**

Under this ordinance, tenants MUST call their landlord immediately then follow-up in writing. Tenants SHOULD NOT try to get rid of the bed bugs by applying chemicals, "bug bombs" or pesticides as these do not work and could make you, your family or neighbors sick. Once a tenant has notified the landlord, wait for additional instructions from the

landlord and pest management professional. Prompt notification and treatment will help prevent the further spread of bed bugs.

#### **Should I dispose of bedding, clothing or other materials that may be infested?**

Disposing of these items is probably not necessary unless directed by a pest management professional. If there are items that do need to be disposed of, do so carefully by sealing them in plastic bags so as to not spread bed bugs further. The ordinance prohibits the recycling of any bed bug infested materials and requires that any bed bug infested materials be totally enclosed in a plastic bag and labeled as being infested with bed bugs when disposed.

#### **What should I do with any linens or clothes that may be infested?**

- Wash all linen and other infested materials (including clothing) in hot water, then after drying the clothes, keep them) in the dryer and dry for an additional 20 minutes on the highest setting.
- Put un-washable or "dry clean only" materials in the dryer on the highest setting for at least 20 minutes.
- If you have to launder in a common area of the building or at a laundromat, make sure all items are enclosed in a bag before leaving your apartment to prevent the further spread of bed bugs.
- Once all these materials are laundered and dried, seal them in clean bags so bed bugs can't reinfest them.

#### **What are my responsibilities as a tenant under this ordinance?**

Tenants have two main responsibilities under this ordinance:

- 1) Notify your landlord within 5 days of suspecting a bed bug infestation;
- 2) Cooperate with the landlord by adhering to the following:
  - Don't interfere with an inspection or with a treatment
  - Grant access to your apartment for an inspection or a treatment.
  - Make the necessary preparations, as instructed by your land-lord or a pest management professional,
  - Dispose of any items that a pest management professional has determined can not be treated or cleaned.