

# Welcome to Canada



In Canada, location and cost are important to think about when choosing where to live. You may want to live close to work, schools, stores, places of worship, community centres or public transit that allows you to get to these places easily. Depending on where you are going to live, it may be challenging to find housing that is affordable and meets your needs.

The [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#) website has housing information and resources to help newcomers get settled in Canada. It explains the differences between renting and buying a home. A newcomers' guide and workbook provide housing information in 8 languages.

Learn more about your neighbourhood before choosing where to live. You can search online, visit in person, ask friends and family about different places to live, and ask your local settlement service provider for help.

## TYPES OF HOUSING IN CANADA

There are many different types of housing in Canada. Most people rent or buy an apartment, a condominium (condo) or a house. There is also temporary and emergency housing available.

You may need temporary housing if you plan to look for a place to rent or buy after you arrive. Types of temporary housing include hotels, hostels and short-term private rentals.

Emergency housing shelters are available for people in crisis such as those in abusive relationships or who are homeless. Search online for information about emergency housing shelters near you.



## RENTING

There are different options for renting a place to live. Apartments are located in larger buildings or in a house. They have 1, 2 or 3 bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom. "Bachelor" or "studio" apartments have a room that is both a living area and a bedroom and also include a bathroom.

When you rent a place to live, you become a "tenant." A landlord is the person who owns the house or building being rented.

There are housing laws in each province and territory that outline tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities. You can find more information on landlord and tenant rights and responsibilities on the government housing authority website in your province or territory.

## LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RENT

There are several ways to find a place to live in Canada. Most places are posted online, making it the easiest way to compare places quickly.

If your application to rent is approved, you and your landlord will sign a lease. A lease is a legal written agreement that outlines the terms of the living arrangement between you and your landlord. Make sure you understand your lease before you sign it.

You may be asked for a rental deposit when you sign a lease. Learn the laws around rental agreements and deposits in your area by researching online or asking your local settlement service provider.

## BUYING A HOME

There are 2 main types of housing that you can buy in Canada:

**Houses** can be detached (which means standing separately on its own), semi-detached (where the house shares a wall with another house), or townhouses (which may share walls on both sides). Buying a home means buying the house and the land. As a homeowner, you are responsible for all costs and maintenance.

**Condos** are units that you can buy within a building. When you buy a condo, you will share common areas and assets of the building with the other condo owners. You will also pay a monthly condo fee to maintain the building.

## MORE INFORMATION



Learn more about finding housing and buying a house in Canada at [canada.ca/newcomers-housing](https://canada.ca/newcomers-housing).



To find newcomer settlement services in your area, visit [canada.ca/find-newcomer-services](https://canada.ca/find-newcomer-services).

