Deposit-Safe Checklist

RenterStyle - Small apartment decor that won't cost your deposit

Use this checklist before you start any project, and again on move-out day. Every item here is removable, so your walls, floors and deposit stay safe.

BEFORE YOU START

- [ ] Read your lease for rules on adhesive products, wallpaper and wall coverings.
- [ ] Measure the wall, floor space and walkway before you buy anything.
- [ ] Test every removable product in a hidden spot for 24 hours first.
- [ ] Set a budget per project and keep it under $50 where you can.
- [ ] Photograph each wall and floor before you change anything.

HANGING WITHOUT HOLES

- [ ] Use adhesive hooks and strips rated for the weight you hang.
- [ ] Clean the wall with a dry cloth before you press a strip on.
- [ ] Press each strip for 30 seconds and wait one hour before hanging.
- [ ] Lean large mirrors and art against the wall instead of hanging them.
- [ ] Use tension rods for curtains, never brackets that need screws.

WALLS

- [ ] Paper one accent wall at a time, and keep the other walls plain.
- [ ] Save one spare strip from each roll for repairs.
- [ ] Peel wallpaper slowly from a top corner at a low angle.
- [ ] Warm a stuck edge with a hair dryer on low for 30 seconds, then peel again.

FLOORS AND FURNITURE

- [ ] Use a non-slip pad under every rug so it does not slide.
- [ ] Put felt pads behind leaning frames and under furniture legs.
- [ ] Choose freestanding shelves and consoles that need no fixings.
- [ ] Use saucers under every plant pot to protect the floor.

LIGHT

- [ ] Use warm white bulbs, around 2700K, for living rooms and bedrooms.
- [ ] Add light at two or three heights instead of one bright ceiling light.
- [ ] Take every lamp with you when you move out.

MOVE-OUT DAY

- [ ] Remove tension rods, peel paper slowly, and pull adhesive tabs straight down.
- [ ] Wipe away light marks with a damp cloth and let walls dry.
- [ ] Compare each room with your move-in photos.
- [ ] Pack spare strips, old cushion covers and small fixings in one labelled box.

Remember: beautiful, cheap, fully removable. If a change cannot be undone in under an hour, skip it and pick a removable version instead.