

# Accommodation options

	How much it costs	How to get a place	What rights you'll have
Renting privately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>usually much more expensive than council places</li> <li>bills and Council Tax usually paid separately</li> <li>deposit and rent in advance needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>usually lots of places to choose from</li> <li>available through letting agencies, websites, local papers and shop windows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>most tenancies last for six or 12 months</li> <li>landlord doesn't usually need a reason to evict, but must follow procedures</li> <li>sharing with the landlord gives fewer rights</li> </ul>
Council housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>usually the cheapest way to rent</li> <li>bills and Council Tax paid separately</li> <li>no deposit needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>very few places available</li> <li>usually a long waiting list</li> <li>Some people not eligible</li> <li>get an application form from the council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>most tenancies have no end date</li> <li>introductory/demoted tenants easy to evict</li> <li>secure tenants have much stronger rights</li> </ul>
Housing associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>usually cheaper than renting privately but more expensive than council housing</li> <li>bills and Council Tax usually paid separately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>few places available</li> <li>most properties go to people on council's waiting list</li> <li>direct applications sometimes accepted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>most tenancies have no end date</li> <li>different tenancy types give different rights</li> <li>if support provided, tenants easy to evict</li> </ul>
Home ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the most expensive option, but prices vary</li> <li>regular income required to get a mortgage</li> <li>lots of extra costs</li> <li>owners pay for all repairs</li> <li>may be ground rent and service charge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lots of choice in most areas</li> <li>most places sold through estate agents</li> <li>check local papers and property websites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>most flats are leasehold and most houses are freehold – this affects rights</li> <li>eviction less likely but still possible if you don't keep up your mortgage repayments</li> </ul>
Supported housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>usually more expensive than other rented housing, but help sometimes available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>many schemes specialise in areas such as drug or alcohol dependency</li> <li>there's often a waiting list</li> <li>often an interview to get in</li> <li>helps if an adviser refers you</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>most tenancies end when extra support is no longer needed</li> <li>rights vary, but are usually quite limited</li> </ul>
Lodging schemes/ 'Nightstop'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>often cheaper than other private tenancies</li> <li>deposit not usually required</li> <li>bills often included</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>only exist in some areas</li> <li>you can often get in quickly</li> <li>length of stay can vary</li> <li>helps if an adviser refers you</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>you can be evicted very easily, but should get 'reasonable notice'</li> </ul>
Foyers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>expensive, but financial help is often available</li> <li>services, bills and meals often extra</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>normally a waiting list</li> <li>helps if an adviser refers you</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>training and careers help is condition of tenancy</li> <li>can be evicted if you cause problems</li> </ul>