

When a tenancy ends

Ending the tenancy

A tenancy can end in the following situations.

- The tenancy agreement is a fixed-term tenancy that specifies the tenant will move out at the end of the term.
- The tenant or landlord gives notice to end a periodic tenancy in accordance with the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*.
- When circumstances beyond the landlord's or tenant's control make it impossible for the tenancy agreement to continue (e.g. fire or flood).
- The tenant abandons the rental unit.
- The Residential Tenancies Office (RTO) grants an order.
- The tenant and landlord mutually agree in writing to end the tenancy.

Move-out time

The tenant must move out by 1:00 p.m. on the last day of the tenancy. This means the rental unit must be cleaned and all keys given to the landlord no later than 1:00 p.m. on the last day.

A tenant who has not moved by 1:00 p.m. on the last day of the tenancy could be responsible for any costs incurred by the landlord. These costs could include fees the landlord paid to accommodate the incoming tenant and store their belongings until they were able to move in, or compensation for loss of rental income.

A condition inspection report must be carried out at the end of a tenancy. The RTO recommends using the approved condition inspection report form. This form can be used for both move-in and move-out inspections.

Fixed-term tenancy agreement

If the tenancy agreement states that the tenant will vacate the unit on the end date, then the tenancy ends on that date without the landlord or tenant giving notice.

If however, the tenant is not required to vacate the rental unit at the end of the fixed-term tenancy and the landlord and tenant have not entered into a new tenancy agreement, the landlord and tenant are deemed to have renewed the tenancy agreement as a month-to-month tenancy on the same terms.

The tenant must have the landlord's written consent to end a fixed-term tenancy on a date other than the agreed date. A tenant who ends a fixed-term tenancy early without the landlord's agreement may be held accountable for loss incurred by the landlord, such as lost rent.

The tenant could also ask the landlord for permission to sublet or assign the agreement.

Both the landlord and tenant have a general duty to mitigate or minimize loss. The parties should work together to find a suitable solution.