# The Renter-Friendly Makeover Checklist

15 no-drill changes, room by room — with a budget tracker and a move-out undo log.

Walk your apartment with this checklist before you buy a single thing. Tick what fits your lease, your walls, and your budget — then work through it one room (or one weekend) at a time.

## BEFORE YOU START — DEPOSIT PROTECTION

- [ ] Read the decor clause in your lease (nails / paint / adhesives — know which camp you're in)
- [ ] Photograph every wall, floor corner and countertop as your move-in proof
- [ ] Patch-test every adhesive and peel-and-stick product inside a closet for 24 hours
- [ ] Measure each room, window and 'problem corner' — write the numbers on page 3
- [ ] Set ONE total budget for the makeover and stick to the tracker on page 3

## THE 4 NO-DRILL METHODS (everything uses one of these)

LEAN — mirrors, big art, ladder shelves. Gravity does the work.

STICK — adhesive hooks/strips, peel-and-stick wallpaper & tile. Patch-test first, always.

TENSION — rods for curtains, closets, cabinets and studio dividers. Pressure, no marks.

LAYER — rugs, lamps, textiles and trays. No fixing to anything at all.

Golden rule: if it can't be undone in 10 minutes on move-out day, don't do it.
Every idea in this checklist passes that test.

# ROOM BY ROOM — EVERY STEP, TICK AS YOU GO

## LIVING ROOM

- [ ] Lean one large mirror opposite the window (adhesive bumper behind the top edge)
- [ ] One big rug — front legs of sofa and chairs ON the rug
- [ ] Kill the ceiling light: one floor lamp + one table lamp, warm 2700K bulbs
- [ ] Ladder or freestanding shelf for plants, books and baskets
- [ ] Curtains high and wide — adhesive brackets or an inside-frame tension rod

## BEDROOM

- [ ] Peel-and-stick accent panel behind the bed (patch-tested!)
- [ ] Plug-in sconce by the bed — real reading light, no wiring
- [ ] Reading nook: one chair + throw + basket in the emptiest corner
- [ ] Under-bed storage boxes for everything out of season

## KITCHEN & BATHROOM

- [ ] Peel-and-stick backsplash over the old tiles or plain wall
- [ ] Under-cabinet adhesive light strip — end counter shadows
- [ ] Tension rod inside a cabinet for cleaning bottles / pan lids
- [ ] Over-toilet freestanding shelf unit (no wall fixing)

## ENTRYWAY

- [ ] Slim console or shelf + runner rug = a 'room' your brain believes in
- [ ] Keys bowl + one leaning mirror or stacked frames above the console
- [ ] Matte black / brass adhesive hooks in a neat row for coats and hats

## EVERYWHERE

- [ ] Washi-tape gallery for light prints — rearrange any time, zero cost
- [ ] One ritual corner: coffee, tea or scent tray (scent stacking)
- [ ] Group frames and objects in 3s instead of spreading them out

# BUDGET TRACKER + MOVE-OUT UNDO LOG

## BUDGET TRACKER

| ITEM | IDEA # | COST $ | WHERE FROM |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

My measurements: Living _____ × _____ Bedroom _____ × _____ Kitchen _____ × _____ Windows _____

## MOVE-OUT UNDO LOG — fill this in AS you decorate, not after

| WHAT WENT UP | METHOD | UNDO STEP | DONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
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Tip: keep every original item you swap out (showerhead, blinds wand, cabinet knobs) in one labeled box. Future-you, holding the full deposit, says thanks.

Next step: the full guide — 15 Renter-Friendly Decor Ideas, with photos and links — is waiting for you at cozytinyhome.com. Pick your worst room and start this week.