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The Renter-Safe Decor Checklist

20 Landlord-Approved Products & Tricks
I Use in Every Small Space Project

Hi, I'm Olivia!

This checklist is everything I wish I had when I moved into my first rental. Every single product and trick here has been tested in a real apartment — nothing that requires drilling, painting, or risks your deposit.

Use this as your go-to guide before every room refresh. Tick off each item as you go, and watch your small space transform into a home you love.

HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

- 1 Go room by room — don't try to do everything at once.
- 2 Tick off what you already own — you may have more than you think!
- 3 Start with the products section before trying the tricks.
- 4 Always patch-test removable wallpaper in a hidden corner first.

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PART 1: ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS

■ Command Strips & Adhesives

The backbone of renter-friendly decorating

- ☐ **Command Picture Hanging Strips (Large)**
For frames up to 16 lbs — use 4 strips per frame for security
- ☐ **Command Cord Clips**
Manage TV cables, phone chargers along walls invisibly
- ☐ **Command Towel Bar**
Bathroom storage without a single screw
- ☐ **3M VHB Foam Tape (Heavy Duty)**
For heavier items — mirror, shelf rail, hooks up to 5 lbs
- ☐ **Gorilla Clear Mounting Tape**
Best for smooth, glossy surfaces where Command strips fail

■ Tension Rods

Zero-drilling curtains, organizers & more

- ☐ **Adjustable Tension Rod (24"–36")**
Standard window curtains in rentals — always measure first
- ☐ **Heavy-Duty Tension Rod (48"–84")**
Room divider, closet curtain, or shower curtain
- ☐ **Mini Tension Rods (11"–20")**
Under-sink organizers, cabinet dividers, small windows

■ Removable Wallpaper & Contact Paper

Transform walls & surfaces — peels off clean

- ☐ **Peel & Stick Wallpaper (Tempaper or RoomMates)**
Always do a patch test in a hidden corner first — let sit 72hrs
- ☐ **Contact Paper (marble or wood grain)**
Countertops, shelves, cabinet doors — life-changing hack
- ☐ **Peel & Stick Backsplash Tiles**
Kitchen & bathroom — apply to clean, dry surface only

PART 1 CONTINUED + PART 2: TRICKS

■ Storage & Organization Essentials

Smart products for small spaces

- ☐ **Over-Door Organizer (shoe/pantry style)**
Works on any door — bathroom, bedroom, pantry
- ☐ **Stackable Clear Bins with Labels**
Under-bed, closet shelf, or bathroom cabinet organizer
- ☐ **Furniture Risers (4"–8")**
Elevate bed or sofa for massive under-furniture storage
- ☐ **Vacuum Storage Bags (Large & XL)**
Seasonal clothing, extra bedding — frees entire shelves
- ☐ **Lazy Susan Turntable (for cabinets/pantry)**
Corner cabinet hack that makes everything accessible
- ☐ **Magnetic Spice Rack (fridge-mounted)**
Frees up entire cabinet shelf in rental kitchens

PART 2: TRICKS THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING

- ☐ **Mirror trick — make your room look double the size**
Place a large mirror opposite your window to reflect light & create depth
- ☐ **2-colour curtain rule — hang curtains HIGH & WIDE**
Mount rod at ceiling height, extend 15cm past window on each side
- ☐ **Same-wood-tone rule throughout the apartment**
Pick ONE wood tone (light oak, walnut, etc.) — repeat it everywhere
- ☐ **Limit to 3 colours max in any room**
Main colour 60%, secondary 30%, accent 10% — feels intentional not cluttered
- ☐ **Float your furniture off the walls**
Pull sofa 6-8 inches from wall — makes the room feel bigger, not smaller
- ☐ **Use vertical space — floor to ceiling storage**
Tall bookshelves, wall-mounted shelves at eye level and above
- ☐ **Layer your lighting — never rely on just the overhead**

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