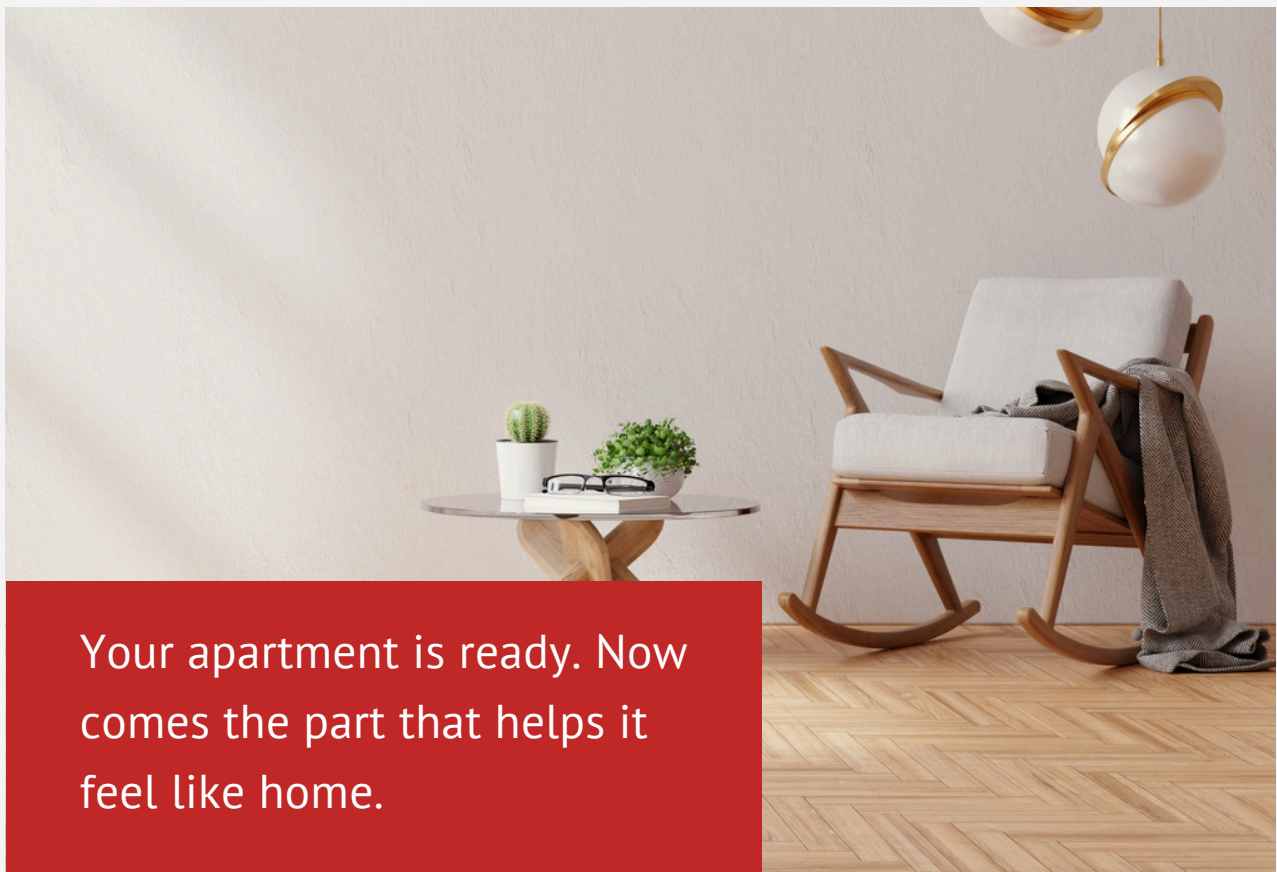


YOUR FIRST 30 DAYS: A RENTER'S GUIDE TO SETTLING IN



INTRODUCTION



Your apartment is ready. Now comes the part that helps it feel like home.

Your space will evolve, but the first month builds the foundation. Keep a checklist, take notes, and adjust slowly. Whether you're new to renting or just new to Kingston, this guide will help you settle in with intention.



01

EXPLORE LOCAL ESSENTIALS EARLY

Walk, map, or ride around your area and make a personal list of the following:

Grocery Stores

Choose one full-service store and one quick-stop store. In Kingston, look for Loblaws on Princess Street, Food Basics near downtown, and Farm Boy for specialty goods.

Pharmacy and Healthcare Access

Register with a pharmacy near your building. It saves time if you ever need over-the-counter medicine, vaccines, or prescription refills. If you do not have a family doctor in Kingston, note where the closest walk-in clinics and urgent care centres are.

Transit Access

Use Kingston Transit's mobile app that shows real-time arrivals and route changes.

Waste Collection and Recycling

Ask your building manager how garbage and recycling work in your building. In Kingston, the city uses colour-coded bag systems and collection days vary by area. You can also sign up for reminders on the [City of Kingston Waste App](#).



02

MAKE YOUR APARTMENT FEEL LIKE YOU

Every lease has rules that can limit your creativity, but you can still make your space look elevated without paint, nails, or permanent fixtures.

Things that can transform your unit:

- Removable wallpaper or wall decals
- LED floor lamps and plug-in light strips for warm lighting
- Throw rugs to create an illusion in open spaces
- Temporary kitchen backsplash (peel-and-stick)
- Freestanding shelving or tension rods for storage without drilling
- Art prints mounted with removable adhesive strips

Tip:

Before buying furniture, measure moving space available in hallways, elevators, and entryways. Rentals are usually narrower than condo units.

Always keep original hardware and fixtures if you swap anything temporarily.



03

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Some buildings are quiet and private, others are more social. Your first month is the right time to understand expectations around noise, laundry room use, and shared spaces.

Watch for:

- Notes on the bulletin board or elevator about maintenance or local events
- Your neighbours' preferences for quiet hours and visitor etiquette
- How deliveries are handled - does your building have a secure locker or drop-off policy?



04

START CONNECTING WITH THE LOCALS

In a city like Kingston, community connection does not need to wait. Ideas for the first 30 days:

- Attend a Saturday at the Kingston Public Market
- Join a beginner drop-in class at Artillery Park Aquatic Centre or a local yoga studio
- Follow community accounts on Instagram or Facebook for free and low-cost events
- Sign up for a local library card. Kingston Frontenac Public Library also offers free passes to museums and local attractions.

If you work or study remotely, find cafes around you with good internet. Work from there once a week, so you get to interact with your neighbours. Juniper Café or Northside Espresso are our favourites at Barr Development.

Take time to learn your building, get to know your neighbourhood, and set up systems that work for you.

If you're renting with Barr Developments and have questions about your lease, maintenance, or building policies, please reach out to our team. We're here to support you every step of the way.