



Renter's Budget Worksheet

Section 1:

Monthly Income

Source	Estimated Amount	Actual Amount
Primary Job	\$_____	\$_____
Secondary Job/Side Hustle	\$_____	\$_____
Other Income (child support, benefits, etc.)	\$_____	\$_____
Irregular Income (average monthly)	\$_____	\$_____

Total Monthly Income = \$_____

Section 2:

Monthly Housing Costs

Item	Estimated Amount	Actual Amount
Monthly Rent	\$_____	\$_____
Security Deposit (monthly portion if saving)	\$_____	\$_____
Renters Insurance	\$_____	\$_____
Parking/Storage Fees	\$_____	\$_____
Pet Rent/Fees	\$_____	\$_____
HOA/Community Fees	\$_____	\$_____

Subtotal: \$_____



Section 3:

Utilities & Household Bills

Item	Estimated Amount	Actual Amount
Electricity	\$_____	\$_____
Gas/Heat	\$_____	\$_____
Water/Trash/Sewer	\$_____	\$_____
Internet/Wi-Fi	\$_____	\$_____
Streaming/Subscriptions	\$_____	\$_____
Cell Phone	\$_____	\$_____

Subtotal: \$_____

Section 4:

Transportation Costs

Item	Estimated Amount	Actual Amount
Car Payment	\$_____	\$_____
Gas/Transit	\$_____	\$_____
Insurance	\$_____	\$_____
Parking (outside rental)	\$_____	\$_____
Maintenance/Repairs	\$_____	\$_____

Subtotal: \$_____



Section 5:

Living Expenses

Item	Estimated Amount	Actual Amount
Groceries	\$_____	\$_____
Dining Out/Coffee	\$_____	\$_____
Health Insurance/Medical	\$_____	\$_____
Childcare/School Costs	\$_____	\$_____
Entertainment	\$_____	\$_____
Miscellaneous	\$_____	\$_____

Subtotal: \$_____

Section 6:

Savings & Debt Repayment

Item	Goal Amount	Actual Amount
Emergency Fund	\$_____	\$_____
Down Payment Savings	\$_____	\$_____
Retirement (401k/IRA)	\$_____	\$_____
Debt Repayment (credit cards/loans)	\$_____	\$_____

Subtotal: \$_____



Section 7:

✓ Monthly Totals

- Total Income: \$_____
 - Total Expenses: \$_____
 - **Leftover (Income – Expenses):** \$_____
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✦ Reflection

- Am I staying under the **30% rule** for housing (rent + housing costs < 30% of income)?
 - Where can I cut back to save more?
 - How much can I commit monthly toward a **future down payment fund**?
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🔑 Pro Tip from Marilyn Archer:

Run the Housing Cost Check

Two quick checks:

1. **Core Housing %** = (Rent + Renter's Insurance + *average* Utilities) ÷ Net Income
 - Target: **≤ 30%** (up to ~35% can be realistic in higher-cost areas)
2. **All-In Housing %** = (Core Housing + Parking/Storage + Pet Rent + HOA) ÷ Net Income
 - Use this to see your true monthly picture.

If either % is high, consider savings in other categories or negotiating at renewal.

Tune & Trim (if needed)

- Cut or pause **2–3 subscriptions** you won't miss.
- Lower **dining/coffee** by setting a weekly cap.
- Ask providers for **promo rates** (internet/cell).



- Reduce **transportation** (public transit pass, carpool days).
- Check for **utility efficiency** (LED bulbs, thermostat discipline).

Goal: Create a **small surplus** (even \$50–\$150) to seed savings every month.

Set Up Automation & Review Cadence

- **Automate:** rent, utilities, savings, and minimum debt payments.
 - **Review** after month 1 (replace “Estimated” with “Actual”).
 - **Quarterly:** re-average utilities, adjust savings amounts.
 - **Move-in/Move-out months:** expect temporary spikes; plan ahead with a sinking fund.
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Special Cases

Roommates:

- Enter **only your share** of each expense.
- If utilities vary, agree on a method (even split or % allocation) and stick to it.

Irregular Income:

- Base the worksheet on your **12-month average**.
- Keep a **1–2 month buffer** in checking to absorb swings.

Starting from scratch:

- Use **conservative estimates** (round up) for utilities and groceries so you’re not caught short.
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Quick Quality-Check (5 questions)

1. Did I use **net** income?
2. Do my “Actual” numbers match bank/statement history?



3. Is my **Core Housing %** \leq **30–35%**?
4. Do I have **at least one** automatic transfer to savings?
5. Did I create a **\$500–\$1,000 buffer** for surprises?