

7 Common Tenant Application Mistakes – And How to Fix Them

Avoid Delays in Your Application. Improve Your Chances of Approval



Incomplete Documents



Why it hurts: Incomplete files may delay the review process.



Fix: Submit your government ID, proof of income, and credit report together.



Pro Tip: Use a free credit report site & organize your docs early.

Not Checking Credit in Advance



Why it hurts: Credit surprises can make your application harder to assess.



Fix: Review your credit in advance and be prepared to explain anything unusual.



Pro Tip: You can include a short note about any past issues to provide context.



Leaving Blanks or Vague Info



Why it hurts: Incomplete forms slow things down and can create unnecessary confusion.



Fix: Fill out every field clearly — even if it's "N/A."



Pro Tip: Treat your application like a professional resume.

Unstable or Unverifiable Income



Why it hurts: Makes it harder for landlords to assess financial reliability.



Fix: Include job letters, pay stubs, or recent invoices.



Pro Tip: Self-employed? Include a CRA Notice of Assessment or other proof of income.



No Rental History or Weak References



Why it hurts: Lack of history can leave questions about reliability.



Fix: Offer personal, employer, or academic references.



Pro Tip: If you're new to renting, a guarantor or co-signer can strengthen your application.

Not Following Up



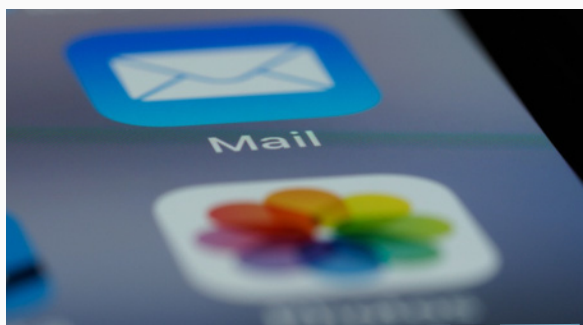
Why it hurts: You may miss a chance to clarify or stand out.



Fix: Send a polite follow-up or thank-you after applying.



Pro Tip: Keep it simple — just reaffirm interest and gratitude.



Applying Beyond Your Budget



Why it hurts: Landlords often look at overall affordability — whether rent can reasonably fit within your budget.



Fix: Show proof of stable income, housing support, or a guarantor to strengthen your application.



Pro Tip: If using rental subsidies, include proof of support to clarify your situation.

Avoid the most common pitfalls — and apply with clarity, confidence, and a complete application.