



10-Entry Level Checklist for Green Housing For Renters and Homeowners

Note that the HGBP is a program that recognizes businesses and organizations and not individuals. While individuals don't qualify for the recognition, the Renter's checklist may be used as a guide to operating and maintaining green rental housing. For Developers and Landlords, please see the HGBP 10-ELP Housing checklist.

- 1. **Use energy efficient LED lighting.** For products that will provide the greatest energy savings, look for products that have earned the ENERGY STAR® logo. (<https://www.energy.gov/save/renters>; <https://hawaiienergy.com/for-homes/tips-to-save-energy/>).
- 2. **Use your ceiling fan to move cooler air.** During the hotter months, ensure your ceiling fan blades are rotating counterclockwise to help push cooler air down. (<https://www.energy.gov/save/renters>; <https://www.homedepot.com/c/ah/ceiling-fan-direction-in-summer-and-winter/9ba683603be9fa5395fab9036ab25bf>).
- 3. **Get smart with your thermostat.** Find tips and tricks at Programmable Thermostats | Department of Energy. (<https://www.energy.gov/save/renters>; <https://hawaiienergy.com/for-homes/tips-to-save-energy/>).
- 4. **Lower your water heater temperature.** Find step-by-step instructions at: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/do-it-yourself-savings-project-lower-water-heating-temperature>.
- 5. **Work with your landlord to seal air leaks around windows, doors and/or cracks with caulk and/or weatherstripping.** Find step-by-step instructions at: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/do-it-yourself-savings-project-using-caulk-seal-air-leaks>. <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/do-it-yourself-savings-project-weatherstrip-double-hung-or-sash-windows>.
- 6. **Use power strips with smart plugs.** By connecting devices such as electronics to power strips or smart plugs, you can turn them off completely when not in use. (<https://www.energy.gov/articles/5-tips-energy-saving-renters>).
- 7. **Use Zero-Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) paint for exterior or interior walls.** (<https://www.benjaminmoore.com/en-us/contractors/job-solutions/low-voc-paint>).
- 8. **Be mindful of your water usage.** Turn off tap when brushing teeth, be mindful of your showers, set your washing machine to use cold water, etc. More tips at: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/start-saving>; <https://www.boardofwatersupply.com/conservation/tips>).
- 9. **Notify property manager of leaks.** WaterSense® reminds Americans to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems each year in March during <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>. (<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>).
- 10. **Cleaning Supplies: Switch to cleaning products certified as an environmentally preferable product,** such as: Safer Choice, ECOLOGO, or Green Seal. (<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice>).

10-Entry Level Additional Checklist for Renters & Homeowners

Additional ways to be more sustainable.

- 1. **Use natural or low-emission furniture, carpets, and building materials.** For more information on these products, see Green Seal (<https://greenseal.org/>) or GREENGUARD (<https://www.ul.com/services/ul-green-guard-certification>).
- 2. **Increase resilience:** Check and clear your gutters and downspouts, keep all tree limbs trimmed away from your house/unit, and/or work with your landlord when inspecting the roof for signs of aging. <https://fortifiedhome.org/article/build-resilience-to-your-budget/>; <https://www.touchstoneenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Checklist-onesheet1.pdf>).
- 3. **Give back to the community:** Donate what you don't need. Goodwill Hawaii: (<https://www.goodwillhawaii.org/donate-to-goodwill/donation-locations/>)
- 4. **Recycling:** If building does not provide recycling containers, locate closest recycling drop-off location and/or recycling center to dispose of your recyclable waste. See: <https://www.honolulu.gov/env/ref/ql-recycling-centers/> (O'ahu); <https://www.honolulu.gov/env/ref/recycling-drop-off-locations/> (O'ahu).
- 5. **Purchase recycled paper products** (tissues, toilet paper, and paper towels) with 30% or higher recycled content.
- 6. **Furnish sustainable:** When purchasing new furniture, look for items made from recycled or sustainable (bamboo, reclaimed wood, recycled metal) materials.
- 7. **Transportation:** Use public transit and active transportation when available. Bus and biking options include: The Bus, Biki, or Skyline Rail.
- 8. **Indoor plants:** Indoor plants improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.
- 9. **Advocate for sustainability in your rental:** Communicate with your landlord or property manager about sustainability practices, such as installing solar panels, adding a composting station, upgrading to energy-efficient appliances as old appliances need to be replaced.
- 10. **Other Green Practices:**