

Can't pay your rent in Dubai?

A calm, step-by-step plan to protect yourself when rent becomes a problem.

Tenancy & rental

Falling behind on rent is stressful, but ignoring it makes things worse. Here's how to handle it sensibly and protect your position.

First principle: Don't go silent. Most rent problems get worse through avoidance. Communicating early — and knowing your contract — puts you in a far stronger position.

Step by step

- 1 Read your tenancy contract.** Check the payment terms, notice periods, and what it says about late payment or early termination.
- 2 Talk to your landlord early.** Many landlords prefer a workable plan over an empty unit. Propose something realistic in writing.
- 3 Get any agreement in writing.** A revised payment plan or reduced amount means little unless it's documented.
- 4 Know the dispute route.** Dubai has a Rental Dispute Centre (RDC) for tenant–landlord disputes; other emirates have their own committees. It exists to resolve these matters fairly.
- 5 Understand early exit.** If you need to leave, check your contract's early-termination clause before assuming you'll lose your deposit.

Protect yourself

- Keep records of all payments and messages with your landlord/agent.
- Make sure your tenancy is properly registered (e.g. Ejari in Dubai) — it matters if there's a dispute.
- Don't sign anything new under pressure without understanding it.

Key questions to ask

- What exactly does my contract say about late payment and termination?
- Have I proposed a realistic plan in writing?
- Is my tenancy registered, and do I have my paperwork?

When to get a lawyer

If you've received an eviction notice, your landlord won't engage, or you're worried about your deposit or a dispute filing, a lawyer who knows the rental rules can tell you your rights and the right next move for your situation.

Got a question this didn't answer?

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