

## Avoid getting scammed – don't lose your deposit

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It is important to be vigilant when renting a property, particularly when handing over a deposit to a landlord or agent. Follow these tips to avoid getting scammed.

1. Always meet a prospective landlord in the accommodation.
2. Ask for identification, for example, a business card or an Irish Property Owner's Association membership card.
3. If you are dealing with an agent, check that they are a member of a reputable association (for example, IAVI)
4. Get the landlord's full contact details, including a landline telephone number, home address or place of business.
5. Only agree to take the property when you are totally satisfied. Ask the following questions before making your decision:
  - Is the landlord registered with the Private Residential Tenancies Board? You can check if the property is currently registered by going to [www.prtb.ie](http://www.prtb.ie)
  - Is there a lease or rent book?
  - Who has access to the property?
  - Who do I contact if I have a problem?
  - Why did the previous tenant leave?
6. Never hand over cash. Pay the deposit and first month's rent by cheque or bank draft and get the landlord's bank details for future rent payments.
7. Always get a proper receipt, for example, on headed paper or a till receipt. A scrap of paper will not do.
8. Get the keys and check that they open and close the doors of the property.
9. If you are suspicious in any way, contact the Gardaí immediately.
10. If you have questions about any of the above or if you need advice, please contact your nearest Threshold advice centre.