

Other leaflets in this series:

Academic:

I disagree with my marks  
I hate my course  
I've been accused of plagiarism

Housing:

Do I need to pay council tax?  
How can I save money on my fuel bills?  
How can I get my deposit back?  
I want to get out of my tenancy agreement

Money:

Can I get help with health costs?  
Do I have to pay tax and national insurance?  
Help I'm skint  
How can I fund my course?  
I'm really bad with money  
My boss owes me money

General

How do I complain about the University?  
I've got a University disciplinary hearing

# My house is a dump, what can I do?

Advice & Representation Centre  
1st Floor, Falmer House, Brighton, BN1 9QF  
Tel: 01273 877038 Fax: 01273 873501  
Email: [advice@ussu.sussex.ac.uk](mailto:advice@ussu.sussex.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.sussexstudent.com/advice](http://www.sussexstudent.com/advice)



Advice & Representation

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Your landlord's responsibilities are set out by law and they need to keep in good repair:

- the structure and exterior of the property ( e.g windows, roof etc)
- water, gas, electric and sanitation installations ( e.g. toilets, pipes etc)
- heating and hot water supply ( boiler, radiators etc)

Some tips if things go wrong:

- Don't stop paying your rent - you'll be in breach of your tenancy agreement.
- Report the problem IN WRITING - none of the landlord's legal obligations kick in until they've been properly notified of the disrepair.
- Keep a copy of any letters/ emails. Send any letters recorded delivery.
- Keep a record of the problems you've been having, plus keep a dated record of any telephone conversations with the letting agents/ landlord. Confirm any verbal conversations in writing.
- If possible take dated photos of the disrepair.
- Keep receipts for any expenses you incur e.g. takeaways because cooker failed, hire of heaters because heating broke etc

### **Leaflets/resources available from the Advice & Representation Centre:**

- Moving On a student housing resource guide (produced by the Advice & Representation Centre).

### **Websites:**

- Advice & Representation Centre housing advice pages on [www.sussexstudent.com/advice](http://www.sussexstudent.com/advice)
- Shelter (national housing advice and campaigning organisation) website at [www.shelter.org.uk](http://www.shelter.org.uk).

### **Talk to someone:**

- Advice and Representation Centre ([www.sussexstudent.com/advice](http://www.sussexstudent.com/advice)) email [advice@ussu.sussex.ac.uk](mailto:advice@ussu.sussex.ac.uk) or ring 01273 877038.
- Brighton Housing Trust Housing Aid & Legal Centre (independent housing advice) - 01273 234737.
- Shelter - 0808 800 4444.

