

HOW TO FIND AND RENT A HOME IF YOU HAVE A LARGE FAMILY



The average Canadian family consists of four people. As a result, it can often be difficult for newcomers with larger families to find a home to rent in Canada that is big enough for their needs.

If you have a large family, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) offers the following tips to help you find and rent a home:

- Most apartments in Canada are designed for average-size Canadian families. This means that the majority of apartments that are available to rent will usually have either one or two bedrooms. There are very few three-bedroom apartments in Canada, even in the larger cities. Apartments with four or five bedrooms are even more rare.
- Some landlords limit the number of people who can live in an apartment. That is because the building's plumbing, electrical systems, elevators, parking and other features were designed for a specific number of people. If more people live in an apartment than it was designed for, it could put a strain on the building's systems.
- If you have a large family and you all want to live together, it may be a good idea to rent a house instead of an apartment. Houses can be harder to find and more expensive than apartments, but they will usually have more space and more flexibility to accommodate the needs of a larger group of people living under one roof.
- To help you make the most of a smaller space, have two or more children sleep in the same room. If there isn't enough space, consider buying bunk beds. Bunk beds are two or more beds that are stacked one above the other, forming a single unit. Bunk beds can save a lot of space, while still giving each of the children their own beds.
- If your family includes older parents, grandparents or other older relatives, try to pick a neighbourhood that has services and activities for older people. You and your spouse will likely find jobs, and your children will make friends when they go to school. But older relatives can find it difficult to meet new people, so look for a community centre or other facility that offers cooking classes, language classes, exercise programs or other daytime programs for older people.

For more housing information, please visit Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation at www.cmhc.ca/newcomers.