



# PROPERTY SCAM INFORMATION



With the advancements in technology, criminals don't necessarily need to be face-to-face to steal from you. In a competitive rental market, scammers will target people by requesting they pay upfront deposit bonds or provide personal information in order to secure the property.

Here are some simple steps to help protect yourself from housing rental scammers:

**DO YOUR RESEARCH** – Search the address online to make sure it exists. Make sure the property is not advertised on other websites.

**RENT THROUGH REPUTABLE MEANS** – Use a licenced real estate agent. If the ad is through marketplace or other classified platform you are at an increased risk of being scammed. Ask for evidence of ownership and confirm the identity of the owner you are renting from.

**VIEW THE PROPERTY IN PERSON** – Demand to view the property in person. Don't be fooled by excuses that the landlord is overseas or virtual inspections are the only option.

**NEVER PAY UPFRONT** – Unless you have met the agent or landlord and viewed the property in person, never hand over money or personal information. Only do so in exchange for a signed lease agreement and the keys.

By following the steps above and staying vigilant you can avoid financial loss. Always remember **IF A DEAL SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS.**

If you believe you have been a victim of crime, report it immediately to:

- Your personal financial Institution if any financial loss has occurred
- Scamwatch - <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au>
- IDCARE - [www.idcare.org](http://www.idcare.org).
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) - <https://www.accc.gov.au/>
- Local Police via:
  - In person at the Police Station
  - Police Assistance Line - **131 444**
  - Crime Stoppers - **1800 333 000**
  - Community Portal - <https://portal.police.nsw.gov.au>

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS:



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