

Türkiye Move-In & Apartment Handover Checklist

Last reviewed: August 2026

Signing the lease is exciting, but there are still a few important things to check before you unpack. Use this list to document the apartment, clarify responsibilities, and make the first days in your new home easier.

Before You Accept the Keys

- Confirm the move-in date and the date rent will be due each month.
- Make sure you and the landlord have signed copies of the same rental agreement.
- Confirm the amount and payment method for rent and the deposit.
- Ask for written receipts or keep bank records for every payment.
- Confirm what the monthly **aidat** covers and who receives it.
- Ask whether there are unpaid utility bills or building fees attached to the apartment.
- Collect every key: apartment, building entrance, mailbox, storage area, and parking access.
- Ask who to contact for urgent repairs and building-management questions.

Document the Apartment

Before moving furniture inside, take date-stamped photos or video of every room. Pay special attention to:

- Walls, floors, doors, windows, and ceilings
- Existing scratches, stains, cracks, or water damage
- Kitchen cabinets, counters, appliances, and extractor fan
- Bathroom fixtures, grout, drains, and signs of mold
- Radiators, boiler or **kombi**, air conditioners, and remote controls
- Furnishings included with the apartment
- Electricity, water, and natural-gas meter readings

Send a short written list of existing damage to the landlord or agent and keep a copy. This helps distinguish an old problem from damage that occurred during your tenancy.

Test Before the Handover Is Finished

- Run every tap and check the water pressure.
- Flush each toilet and watch for leaks.
- Test hot water.
- Test the heating system or kombi.
- Turn on every light and test accessible sockets.
- Open, close, and lock all doors and windows.
- Test the intercom and building-entry buzzer.
- Check included appliances.
- Look under sinks and around windows for dampness.
- Ask when the boiler, chimney, or heating system was last serviced.

Utilities and Building Life

Ask the landlord or agent which accounts you must transfer or open in your name. Requirements and providers vary by city and service, so confirm the current procedure directly with the provider.

- Electricity
- Water
- Natural gas, if applicable
- Internet
- Building aidat
- Municipal or building waste arrangements

Note: Some landlords will keep the bills in their names to make it easier as long as you sign up for automatic payments through your bank. Most of the time, this is the easiest approach. Just make sure you have at least one bill opened in your name at the address where you'll be living.

Also ask:

- Where are the fuse box, water shutoff, and gas valve?
- How is rubbish collected?
- Are there quiet hours or building rules?
- Is there a building WhatsApp group?

Who is the **kapıcı** or building manager?

Where is the designated earthquake assembly area for the neighborhood?

Safety Check

Save **112**, Türkiye's unified emergency number.

Check that the front door and locks work properly. (Although not absolutely necessary, it is recommended to change the locks when you first move in.)

Learn how to shut off water, gas, and electricity.

Keep a flashlight, basic first-aid supplies, and a backup phone battery accessible.

Do not block stairways or emergency exits with moving boxes.

Useful Turkish

Turkish	English
Anahtarlar nerede?	Where are the keys?
Sayaçları kontrol edebilir miyiz?	Can we check the meters?
Bu hasar daha önce vardı.	This damage was already here.
Aidata neler dahil?	What is included in the building fee?
Su vanası nerede?	Where is the water shutoff valve?
Kombi nasıl çalışıyor?	How does the boiler work?
Bunu yazılı olarak teyit eder misiniz?	Could you confirm this in writing?

Your Handover Record

Address: _____

Landlord/agent: _____

Building manager: _____

Move-in date: _____

Electricity reading: _____

Water reading: _____

Gas reading: _____

Repair contact: _____

Notes: _____

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This resource is based on personal experience and is intended for general informational purposes. Contracts, provider procedures, costs, and legal requirements can change. Verify current information with the landlord, building management, service provider, or an appropriately qualified professional.