

FREE CALGARY ESSENTIALS RESOURCE

Housing + Commute Comparison

Compare the real monthly cost and time burden of two possible homes.

Cheap rent can create an expensive commute. Compare rent together with utilities, insurance, fares or vehicle costs, parking, transfers and door-to-door time.

Basic housing costs

Cost	Home A	Home B
Monthly rent		
Utilities not included		
Tenant insurance		
Parking/storage		
Laundry/building fees		
TOTAL HOUSING		

One-time move-in costs

Cost	Home A	Home B
Security deposit		
Moving/transport		
Utility/account setup		
Furniture/household setup		
TOTAL SETUP		

Commute test

Question	Home A	Home B
Nearest stop / route		
Transfers each way		
Minutes door to door - one way		
Return trip available after shift?		
Walking / winter exposure		
Monthly transit cost		
Vehicle, fuel and parking cost		
Backup trip cost		
TOTAL TRANSPORT		

Calculate practical monthly cost

Calculation	Home A	Home B
Total housing		
Total transport		
PRACTICAL MONTHLY COST		
Round-trip minutes × work/school days		
MONTHLY COMMUTE HOURS		

Test before signing. Run both trips at the actual work or school time. Also test a late shift or weekend if your schedule requires it.

Decision notes

	Action	My note / status
☐	The property and landlord/manager were verified.	
☐	The full lease and included costs were reviewed.	
☐	The commute was tested in both directions.	
☐	The return trip works for the actual schedule.	
☐	A disruption or severe-weather backup exists.	
☐	The monthly cost leaves room for food, health, debt and savings.	

My preferred home and why:

The number I still need to verify:

The risk I need to solve before signing:

My next action and date:

Official sources and current instructions

Use these official pages for eligibility, required documents, fees, forms and current procedures. Calgary Essentials does not replace the issuing authority.

- Calgary Transit - Rider tools:**

<https://www.calgarytransit.com/rider-information/rider-tools.html>

- Calgary Transit - How to ride:**

<https://www.calgarytransit.com/rider-information/how-to-ride.html>

- Calgary Transit - Fares and passes:** <https://www.calgarytransit.com/fares---passes.html>

- Government of Alberta - Starting a tenancy:** <https://www.alberta.ca/starting-a-tenancy>

- Government of Alberta - During a tenancy:** <https://www.alberta.ca/during-a-tenancy>

- Government of Alberta - Landlord and tenant forms:**

<https://www.alberta.ca/forms-and-documents>

Source review: September 2026. Re-check official instructions before acting.