

Rental stories for journalists and researchers

For more information, or to interview one of the sources below, contact

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(Photos may also be arranged)

| Story | Name | Locality |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| "Our house gets to 35 degrees inside in summer and as low as 10 degrees in winter. I'm worried about climate change, so I don't want to run the heater all day if I know all that energy is just blowing straight through the roof." | Margaret | Balwyn |
| "Our house is so poorly insulated that it's basically uninhabitable in hot weather. We've had to buy a portable cooler which helps a bit, but costs a lot to run. I'm on a disability pension, so we're having to dip into my super to pay bills." | Duncan | Box Hill South |
| "We've been renting for over 20 years. I thought we would own our own home at this life stage. House prices are so high, there's just no way we can save hundreds of thousands of dollars to get a deposit together for a home large enough for a family when we're renting a house to accommodate a family. We're not renting by choice. It's just how our life is." | Charlotte | Fairfield |
| "On hot days we often hang survival blankets and shade-cloth over the windows to stop the heat. It means living in the dark, but it's better than cooking in a glasshouse. It usually works well for a day or two, but after a couple of hot days the house becomes unliveable." | Arnold | Brunswick West |
| "Insulation is non-existent, so it's pretty hot in summer and draughty in winter. The heater works pretty well to heat the main living area but as soon as it's turned off the heat quickly dissipates. This is despite my best efforts installing heavy drapes." | Alexis | Ringwood |
| "I've rented for many years and was evicted from my last house because I asked for repairs to fix the gaps around the windows and doors and lack of insulation. I was also worried about the safety of the gas heater but couldn't get the landlord to have it serviced." | Elise | Sunshine |
| "In summer it's a very cool house but in winter it's freezing. The floors are wooden so there's no insulation and the heat just escapes. To try to keep the heat in I've carpet tiled three rooms myself at my own expense. I will be a renter for the rest of my life, the cost of housing is so ridiculous." | Leanne | Footscray |
| "The house is cold in winter with poor insulation, totally inadequate heating, virtually no window coverings, high ceilings and noticeable draughts throughout. In summer the lack of window-coverings and hole-riddled insect screens also adds to discomfort." | Paula | Ballarat |

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| <p>“The house does have heating and an aircon and fan, but it’s incredibly noisy and only heats one room because the house is draughty. My electricity and gas bills are huge – way more than I paid in my previous home. And water use has gone up enormously because all the taps are old and everything drips and leaks.”</p> | Rosa | Preston |
| <p>“I've got a health issue that makes it hard for me to regulate temperature. So living in a cold house makes life really difficult. Our house has practically no insulation, gaps around the windows and even though there is a heater, it's freezing in winter.”</p> | Natalie | Ringwood |
| <p>“I tried to get our landlord to do draught-proofing, but they declined and installed ducted gas heating instead because it improved property value. But we couldn’t afford to use it, particularly with the house being uninsulated.”</p> | Richard | Pascoe Vale |
| <p>“Coming from a cold country (Sweden), I thought I knew what cold was. I was wrong. It's truly remarkable that Victorians accept these conditions.”</p> | Aaron | Brunswick West |
| <p>“In the summer months my unit is like a sauna, it has an old wall air con but it only keeps one room cool and my electricity bill is about \$800.”</p> | Jean | Wodonga |
| <p>“In winter it is freezing, and in summer it is boiling. No insulation. I had to rug up all winter, to keep warm with blankets as I could not afford to use my heater.”</p> | Catherine | Richmond |
| <p>“No window seals, some windows do not open at all, some windows do not shut properly. Bakes in summer, frozen in winter. Massive gaps under all doors.”</p> | Carmel | Beaumaris |
| <p>“Run down, cold in winter, hot in summer. Costly to heat, expensive for what it is.”</p> | Ryan | Glenroy |