

Preparing for El Niño: A Renters' Guide



Climate scientists are predicting a “super” El Niño weather pattern will bring heavy rain to L.A. this fall/winter. Here are some things you can do to keep your home and your household safe.

ONLINE



Fix problems before they get worse!

You have the right to a safe and habitable home in any kind of weather. **Ask your landlord in writing to make these repairs:**

- Broken or rotted exterior wall coverings or roof coverings
- Broken windows or doors
- Deteriorated or ineffective waterproofing of exterior walls, foundations, or floors
- Exposed electrical wiring
- Broken or leaky plumbing
- Mold
- Clogged gutters and vents

If your landlord refuses to make repairs...

Use our LA Tenant Action Center tool to send a certified copy of the Notice to Repair letter to your landlord for free.



Your landlord has seven (7) days to reply in writing. After that, you can make a complaint to your local housing authority.

Remember: It's against the law for your landlord to harass you for asking for repairs.

Harassment includes verbal and physical threats and assault, neglecting repairs, refusing to accept rent, threatening to disclose your immigration or citizenship status, and serving an eviction notice based on false reasons.

What to Do If Your Home Floods



If heavy rains cause flooding, water damage, mold, plumbing, or electrical problems, your landlord is legally required to fix these problems immediately.

- **Stay Safe:** don't enter a flooded room if water is touching electrical fixtures, outlets, or appliances.
- **Document Damage:** Take videos and photos of flooded areas, sources of leaks, and damaged personal items.
- **Notify Your Landlord in Writing:** Text or email your list of repairs.
- **Track Expenses:** Save receipts for out-of-pocket expenses such as hotel stays or cleaning supplies.

RESOURCES

Los Angeles Housing Department

(866) 557-7368 or housing.lacity.org

Renters in the City of L.A. can report landlord harassment and health and safety violations.

Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

(213) 473-3231 or ladbs.org

Renters in the City of L.A. can report building code violations and unlawful construction.

TAHO (Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance) Program

Renters in the City of L.A. can visit <https://lataho.org/> to learn how to fight landlord harassment.

Department of Consumer and Business Affairs

(800) 593-8222 or dcba.lacounty.gov

Renters in unincorporated L.A. County can report landlord harassment.

Department of Public Health

(888) 700-9995 or publichealth.lacounty.gov

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NotifyLA

The City of Los Angeles uses NotifyLA to send emergency alerts via phone, email, or text. Subscribe to stay informed about emergencies by signing up at <https://emergency.lacity.gov/notifyla>.

Esperanza Community Housing

esperanzacommunityhousing.org

Provides information on mold prevention and mitigation.