

Deposit Interest Action Checklist

Two tracks: collect the interest you are owed, or set up to pay it correctly

Run the tenant track when you think interest was never paid; run the landlord track when you take a deposit in an interest state. Pairs with the Security Deposit Interest by State table. Full guide: clearlegaltips.com/security-deposit-interest-by-state/

TENANT TRACK: COLLECTING WHAT IS OWED

- ☐ Your state or city appears in the Yes or Conditional group of the table
- ☐ The conditions are met: tenancy length, building size, and deposit amount all clear the gate
- ☐ Tenancy dates, deposit amount, and any interest already received are written down
- ☐ A short written request citing the statute has gone to the landlord
- ☐ If the deposit itself is overdue, the interest claim is folded into a formal demand letter
- ☐ Small claims is prepared as the backstop, with the statute citation and the math attached

LANDLORD TRACK: PAYING IT RIGHT

- ☐ Your row in the table is confirmed, including every condition and exemption
- ☐ The account type the statute names is open, separate, and documented
- ☐ For index-rate states, the current year's rate is confirmed from the official publisher
- ☐ The payment date is on the calendar: anniversary, year-end, or termination per your statute
- ☐ The deposit terms, account, rate mechanism, and payment schedule are written into the lease
- ☐ Each payment or rent credit is recorded with the lease file
- ☐ City ordinances are checked separately when the property sits in a major metro

EVERY JANUARY

- ☐ Index-based rates re-confirmed for the new year (state index, city announcements)
- ☐ Statute rows spot-checked for amendments before relying on the table for new leases

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

This checklist is general information, not legal advice. Interest rules are set by state statute and city ordinance and change over time; the underlying table was verified in July 2026 and joins an annual January refresh. When a landlord and tenant disagree about what is owed, the statute citation and a clean written record settle most of it without a courtroom. Full guide and sources: clearlegaltips.com/security-deposit-interest-by-state/