



The Ultimate Move-Out Cleaning Checklist

How to Use This List

Must-Clean: These are non-negotiables. Landlords check these first (e.g., inside ovens, baseboards).

Nice-to-Clean: Do these if you have extra time to make the home shine.

Pro Tip: Start cleaning after the movers leave but before the final walkthrough.

The Essential Supply Kit

- All-purpose cleaner
- Glass cleaner
- Baking soda & white vinegar
- Microfiber cloths & paper towels
- Scrubbing sponges
- Broom, dustpan, & mop
- Vacuum with attachments
- Rubber gloves
- Heavy-duty trash bags

1. Kitchen (Highest Priority)

The most common area for deposit deductions.

- Oven & Stovetop: Scrub racks, interior walls, and the bottom drawer.
- Refrigerator: Remove shelves/drawers to wash in sink. Wipe inside walls.
- Cabinets & Drawers: Wipe inside and outside. Remove all crumbs.
- Sink & Disposal: Scour the basin, shine the faucet, and wipe down the backsplash.
- Floors: Sweep behind the fridge (if movable). Mop floors and wipe baseboards.
- Dishwasher: Wipe door edges and clean the bottom filter.

2. Bathrooms

Focus on removing buildup and hair.

- Toilet: Scrub the bowl, base, and the floor area behind the toilet.
- Shower & Tub: Remove soap scum from walls/doors. Scrub discolored grout.
- Sink & Mirror: Polish the faucet and remove toothpaste splatters.
- Vanity: Empty completely and wipe inside drawers/cabinets.
- Floors: Hand-wash corners and baseboards.
- Exhaust Fan: Vacuum dust from the cover.

3. Bedrooms

Watch out for wall scuffs and left-behind items.

- Closets: Check high shelves for lost items; wipe shelving.
- Walls: Remove scuffs with a melamine sponge.
- Floors: Vacuum carpets thoroughly; treat stains if necessary.
- Windows: Vacuum tracks and wipe sills.
- Lights: Dust ceiling fans and wipe switch plates.

4. Living Room & Common Areas

Focus on dust removal.

- Floors: Vacuum carpets in multiple directions; mop hard floors.
- Walls & Trim: Wipe baseboards and spot-clean scuffs on walls.
- Doors: Wipe handles and areas around knobs (remove sticky oils).
- Windows: Dust blinds and clean inside the glass.
- Fixtures: Dust ceiling fans and light fixtures.

5. Entryway & Utility

First impressions matter.

- Front Door: Wipe inside and remove kick marks at the bottom.
- Laundry: Clean lint trap and wipe down washer/dryer.
- Touchpoints: Wipe thermostats and light switches.
- Vents: Dust vent covers.
- Utility Closet: Sweep floor and remove cobwebs.

The "Deposit Saver" Final Check

Don't let these common mistakes cost you money!

- Trash: Did you remove everything? (No "useful" brooms or detergents left behind).
- Light Bulbs: Are all burnt-out bulbs replaced?
- Drip Pans: Are the stove drip pans clean (or replaced)?
- Odors: Did you air out the unit or use baking soda/vinegar for smells?
- Exterior: (If applicable) Is the patio/balcony swept, and trash bins empty?

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