

Move Out Cleaning Checklist

Focused on tenants preparing for final inspection: lease rules, appliance cleaning, walls and trim, floors, move-in comparison notes, timestamped photos, security deposit documentation, and key return.

FORMAT**Printable PDF checklist****CATEGORY****Cleaning****EDITABLE ONLINE****<https://printablelistmaker.com/move-out-cleaning-checklist/>**

Checklist

- ☐ 1. Remove all personal items from cabinets and closets
- ☐ 2. Review lease, move-out packet, or landlord cleaning requirements before starting
- ☐ 3. Compare move-in photos or inspection notes so pre-existing damage is not confused with cleaning issues
- ☐ 4. Clean oven, stovetop, fridge, freezer, and dishwasher
- ☐ 5. Scrub bathroom tile, toilet, tub, sink, and mirror
- ☐ 6. Wipe walls, doors, trim, switches, and handles
- ☐ 7. Patch small nail holes only if the lease allows it
- ☐ 8. Vacuum carpets and mop all hard floors
- ☐ 9. Save receipts or notes for required carpet cleaning, trash hauling, or professional cleaning
- ☐ 10. Take timestamped final photos and videos for deposit documentation
- ☐ 11. Return keys, fobs, garage remotes, parking passes, and mailbox keys

Planning note

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Tips

Read the lease before cleaning

Move-out expectations vary. Check the lease, move-out packet, or landlord instructions before patching holes, cleaning appliances, booking carpet cleaning, or removing fixtures.

Clean in inspection order

Start with empty cabinets and appliances, then bathrooms, walls, trim, switches, floors, and final trash. This makes it easier to spot missed areas before the walkthrough.

Common questions

What should tenants clean before moving out?

Clean appliances, cabinets, bathrooms, floors, walls, trim, switches, closets, windowsills, and any lease-specific areas. Remove all personal items before the final walkthrough.

Can I print this move-out cleaning checklist without signing up?

Yes. Edit the tasks for your lease, landlord instructions, and room layout, then print the checklist or save it as a PDF without an email signup.

Document the final condition

After cleaning, take timestamped photos and videos of rooms, appliances, floors, walls, closets, keys, and any returned items. This does not guarantee a deposit outcome, but it gives you a clear record.

Can a move-out cleaning checklist help with a security deposit?

It can help you avoid missed tasks and document the final condition, but deposit rules depend on your lease and local law. Take timestamped photos after cleaning.
