

The Move-Out Cleaning Checklist

The room-by-room, deposit-back plan — 29 checks landlords actually inspect

BEFORE YOU START

- ☐ Re-read your lease for **cleaning requirements** and receipt rules
- ☐ Photograph every empty room before and after you clean
- ☐ Schedule the clean **after the movers leave** and before the walkthrough
- ☐ Patch nail holes and compare against your move-in condition report

KITCHEN

- ☐ Degrease the **inside of the oven**, racks and broiler pan
- ☐ Empty the refrigerator, then pull it out and clean behind and beneath
- ☐ Wipe **inside every cabinet and drawer**, top shelves included
- ☐ Descale the sink and faucet; run the disposal with ice and citrus peel
- ☐ Clean the microwave inside and out — ceiling and turntable too
- ☐ Degrease the range hood filter and wipe the backsplash

BATHROOMS

- ☐ Scrub **grout, tile and shower door tracks** until water runs clear
- ☐ Remove soap scum from glass doors with a dedicated remover
- ☐ Descale the showerhead and polish all chrome fixtures
- ☐ Disinfect the toilet completely — **base, hinges and behind**
- ☐ Empty the vanity, wipe shelves and clear hair from the drain

BEDROOMS & LIVING AREAS

- ☐ Dust **ceiling fans, vents and light fixtures** before doing floors
- ☐ Wipe baseboards, door frames, window sills and tracks
- ☐ Vacuum closets and wipe wire shelving and closet floors
- ☐ Erase wall scuffs with a melamine sponge — test a hidden spot first
- ☐ Dust blinds slat by slat and wash the windows inside

FLOORS & FINAL DETAILS

- ☐ Vacuum all carpets; **steam-clean if your lease requires it** and keep the receipt
- ☐ Mop hard floors last, working toward the exit
- ☐ Replace **burned-out bulbs** and dead smoke-detector batteries
- ☐ Wipe switch plates, outlet covers and door handles
- ☐ Remove every bag of trash — leftovers can trigger a hauling fee

WALKTHROUGH DAY

- ☐ Do a **top-to-bottom pass** of each room: ceiling, walls, floor
- ☐ Check under sinks, behind doors and inside appliances one last time
- ☐ Photograph every finished room with timestamps
- ☐ Return all keys, fobs and remotes; confirm your forwarding address

The oven loses more deposits than anything else.

Ovens, showers and inside-appliance grime are the most-failed items on landlord walkthroughs. Budget twice the time you think — or book a professional turnover clean and keep the receipt.