



## Cleaning Checklist

Depending on the size of your home and your schedule, getting your home “white-glove” clean can prove challenging. If you’re unable to do the necessary cleaning yourself before listing your home, consider having a professional clean it, leaving you to simply maintain the work for the period that the home is on the market.

- Vacuum and mop **every** room of the house. Be sure to get under furniture and in all corners. Carpets should be professionally steam cleaned.
- Clean all bathrooms – scrub every inch of the bathroom, and make it shine – this includes towel bars, toilet paper roll holders, etc.
- Wipe down bathroom walls – especially where the hand towels are, often water can drip down and leave marks.
- Grout – scrub and clean well. For really old and soiled grout use a grout whitener, available at most hardware stores.
  - **Best cleaner:** 3 parts baking soda with 1-part peroxide – mix and apply to the surface, leave for 15 minutes, then clean with a brush. For a large area, consider hiring a professional to steam clean the grout.
- Clean all mirrors – this helps reflect light and give rooms a soft glow.
- Clean all sinks and faucets. If stainless steel, ensure that these shine on a daily basis.
- Clean windows inside and out – this allows for more light to come in.
- Clean window trims and ledges – dust and fingerprints can build up here.
- Light switches and outlets – many don’t realize how much we use our light switches, and how dirty they can get. Check all switches, face plates, and outlets regularly and clean as needed.
- Kitchen cupboards, shelves, and drawers – clean inside and out. Check the cupboard doors, especially under the sink – has water dripped down and left marks? Are there any other spills or built up dirt and grime?
- Clean all doors and cupboards, especially around the handles, for fingerprints.
- Wipe down all baseboards and door frames. Apply fresh paint if necessary.
- Look up – dust and clean the tops of door frames, check crown moldings, sweep cobwebs, dust ceiling fan blades, and dust artwork and mirrors, including the top of the frames.
- Clean all appliances, including knobs and handles
- Yard – FALL: Rake all leaves; SPRING/SUMMER: Mow the lawn, rake up cut grass, and storage all toys out of sight; WINTER: keep driveway and all walk-ways clear of snow and ice
- Odors – We’ve all heard the recommended “bake cookies before an open house”, but sometimes that’s not always possible, not to mention that it leaves a mess to clean up after.
  - **Recommended alternatives:**
    - Bake a halved lemon for approximately 15 minutes
    - Keep fresh potted herbs throughout the house
    - Open windows to release stale air
    - Try natural air freshener: Fill a baking pan with approximately ½ inch of water, add orange slices and a few teaspoons of cinnamon and bake at 350° for at least 15 minutes.