

cleaning checklist

it's nearly time to leave your rented accommodation but there's one task to complete before you hand back your keys...cleaning!

we know it can be tempting to leave cleaning to the morning of your move out but this will take longer than you think!

if your property isn't cleaned to the same standard as when you moved in (check your inventory for guidance) then your landlord/agent may ask a cleaner to visit and deduct their cleaning charge from your damage deposit.

cleaning is the most common cause of deposit disputes in the private rented sector and was mentioned in 50% of cases submitted to the tenancy deposit scheme (one of the approved deposit schemes) in 2021/22.



- chat with your housemates and agree how to split cleaning of the shared areas
- take responsibility for your own bedroom
- stock up on supplies before you start e.g bin bags, cleaning cloths, gloves, detergents and specialist products such as limescale remover and glass cleaner
- focus on one room at a time. it will take longer if you keep moving between rooms
- follow the checklist below!!



general/all rooms

- remove cobwebs (look out for these in corners!)
- light fittings/shades - dust and clean. replace bulbs if necessary and accessible
- windows - dust rails, frames and sills, clean glass inside and out (if accessible)
- curtains/blinds - remove, shake and vacuum curtains. wipe blinds with a damp cloth
- doors - dust and wipe with a damp cloth (including handles, tops and edges)
- radiators - dust and wipe with a damp cloth
- electricity outlets and light switches - dust and wipe with a damp cloth
- cupboards, chest of drawers, wardrobes - empty and dust/polish
- furniture - vacuum upholstered furniture e.g sofas
- skirting boards - dust and wipe with a damp cloth
- vacuum all rooms (and stairs) thoroughly, moving furniture as you go
- floors - sweep and mop all non-carpeted floors

bedrooms (in addition to the above)

- under the bed - clear all belongings (check bed drawers if applicable) and vacuum
- mattress - vacuum (and clean if required)
- mattress protector - wash (or purchase new if required)

kitchen

- drawers and cabinets - empty, vacuum and wipe clean
- washing machine - clean door seal (check for trapped items) and detergent drawer
- tumble dryer - clean inside the drum and lint filter
- fridge and freezer - empty, defrost and wipe clean. turn off and leave doors open
- oven - clean oven, grill, all attachments and general body of the oven
- extractor fans - wipe over and clean filter
- hob - scrub rings and controls
- sinks - clean and remove any stains or limescale, including taps
- wipe over all appliances e.g microwave, toaster
- clean all surfaces, cabinet doors, worktops, floor and internal windows
- empty all bins and dispose of bin bags, clean inside and out

bathroom/cloakroom/en-suites

- clean extractor fans/vents (these can be very dusty)
- shower/bath - scrub tiles (including grout), screen, tray/bath, taps and shower head
- shower/bath - remove limescale and any signs of mould
- shower/bath - check the plug is clear of hair and other debris
- sinks - clean and remove any stains or limescale, including taps
- toilets - clean thoroughly inside and out
- cabinets/drawers - empty, vacuum and wipe clean
- mirrors - spray and wipe with glass cleaner
- clean all other surfaces including the floor and internal windows
- empty all bins and dispose of bin bags, clean inside and out

once you've finished cleaning, take photographs of all of the rooms (adding a date and time stamp). these may be useful evidence if you and your landlord/agent disagree about any proposed deductions from your deposit.

