

cleaning BEFORE listing



Compliments of:
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real

Real Broker, LLC





welcome

Sellers have a responsibility to clean the home after they move. The question becomes: how clean is clean enough? It can depend on numerous factors, and exactly who is selling the house is usually key among them. Most sellers take special steps on their own to present the home in acceptable condition if there's no legal requirement to clean the property before moving out

Most buyers will clean the home to their own standards before moving in regardless of the sellers' efforts. There are nonetheless a few things a seller can do to leave the house reasonably clean and to create goodwill.

This checklist will take you throughout the house and determine what needs to be cleaned, what needs to be cleaner, and what you can disregard.

It is important to leave the home in the same condition you would like to receive when you purchase a new house. It is true that the buyer will clean the home to their standards they move in, however it is SO nice to take a big deep sigh of relief when they can walk into a clean home.

Sheryl Lynn Johnson

getting
started

get motivated

Listen To Music

Whether you choose the radio, an mp3 player, or your favorite playlist on the computer, music will help you be more excited about cleaning. Choose upbeat music, it will make you work faster and as an added benefit it can count as light exercise.

Wear Real Clothes

Not your best clothes of course, but not pajamas. Really getting dressed down to comfy shoes can help tell your mind that you've got work to do. If you start cleaning in your bed pants and house shoes, it may be more difficult to take the work seriously, and therefore get it done quickly.

Set a Deadline

Invite someone over for dinner. You'll be more motivated to clean because you have to get it done by a certain time. Be careful to give yourself enough time to actually get your cleaning done. You can also use a timer. This works really well with kids. Try to beat your last "record" for cleaning. Kids will actually get excited trying to beat the clock.

Give Yourself a Reward

This can be something you purchase..."If I finish my daily cleaning, I can buy that new book I've been wanting." Or, it can be time doing something you really enjoy..."When the master closet is reorganized, I can spend two hours scrapbooking." Creating a reward for yourself when you've finished a dreaded chore can be a great motivating tool.

room by
room

kitchen



- For each cabinet or drawer:
Remove items and wipe out the drawer
- Wash cabinet doors and knobs
- Clean oven
- Clean stovetop. Remove elements and drip bowls, if applicable, wash and put them back
- Clean fridge and freezer
- Clean under fridge and stove
- Clean microwave
- Clean Dishwasher with vinegar
- Wash and shine sink, shine the faucet, clean the drain
- Dust light fixtures
- Wash switch plates
- Wash walls and trim as needed
- Wash doors and doorknobs
- Wash counters and backsplash
- Wash floor registers and other vent covers
- Sweep and wash the floor

dining room

- Wash windows and window sills.
- Take out and wash window screens.
- Wash switch plates
- Wash walls and trim.
- Wash doors and doorknobs
- Wash floor registers and other vent covers.
- Clean floors.



living room

- Wash windows and window sills.
- Take out and wash window screens.
- Wash switch plates
- Wash walls and trim.
- Wash doors and doorknobs
- Wash floor registers and other vent covers.
- Clean floors.



bathrooms



- Wash windows and window sills
- Wash cabinet doors
- Wash inside cabinets
- Dust down the ceiling and corners
- Dust the vents and fans
- Scrub the shower and tub
- Clean/wash shower curtain
- Scrub down the toilet
- Vacuum Out the Closet
- Wash down the sink and fixtures
- Clean out underneath sink
- Wipe Down Light Switches, Fixtures
- Clean Windows and Mirrors
- Clean the Floors

bedrooms

- Vacuum Out the Closet
- Dust all Surfaces
- Wipe Down Light Switches, Fixtures, and Ceiling Fan
- Dust down the ceiling and corners
- Clean Windows and Mirrors
- Clean the Floors/Vacuum the Carpet



laundry room

- Wipe down cabinet doors
- Wash inside cabinets
- Wash laundry sink. Shine faucet
- Wash switch plates
- Wash walls and trim
- Wash doors and doorknobs
- Wash floor registers and other vent covers
- Sweep and wash floors



stairwells outside

- Sweep/vacuum stairs
- Spot clean walls
- Wipe down the handrail
- Dust light fixtures & ledges

- Sweep porches and walkway
- Wash thresholds
- Wash exterior doors
- Change any burnt out light bulbs



notes: