# cleaning BEFORE listing

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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.

Sheryf 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

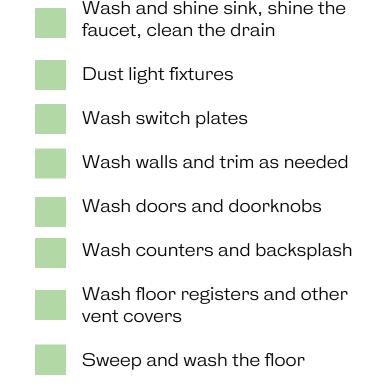
- Clean stovetop. Remove elements and drip bowls, if applicable, wash and put them back

Clean fridge and freezer



Clean microwave

Clean Dishwasher with vinegar



### dining room



Wash windows and window sills.

Take out and wash window screens.



Wash switch plates

Wash walls and trim.

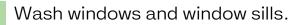


Wash doors and doorknobs

Wash floor registers and other vent covers.

Clean floors.

### living room



Take out and wash window screens.





Wash walls and trim.



Wash doors and doorknobs

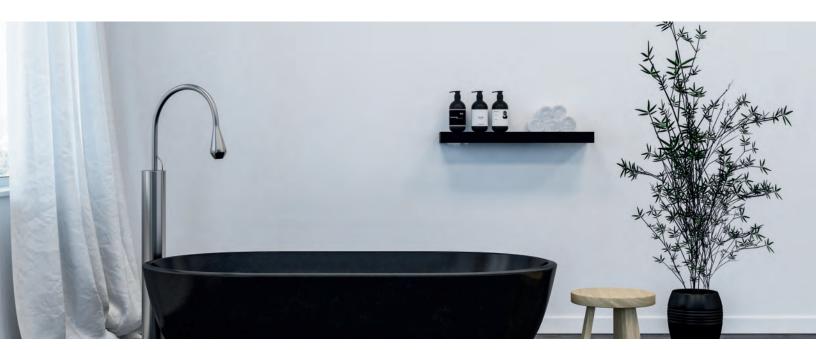
Wash floor registers and other vent covers.





Clean floors.

### bathrooms





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



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







