

Deep Cleaning Check List

Deep cleaning is basically a top to bottom, thorough and complete cleaning. Everything from the ceiling to baseboards and floor is scrubbed until it is free of dirt and dust and shines like new. Hire a professional or follow these tips to get your home sparkling clean. Yes it's a lot of work but the return on investment is huge to properly prepare your home for sale!

Basic Deep Cleaning Tips

1. Put all your cleaning supplies in a tote so you can carry it with you
2. Begin in the back of your home, and work your way to the front, room, by room.
3. Clean left to right, back to front, and top to bottom for maximum efficiency
4. Make your every move count. Get organized before you start with that cleaning tote.
5. Focus on the job at hand. You are cleaning the house, and distractions will drag out the job.
6. Try to clean regularly. It's easier to do routine cleaning and maintain a high shine if you are on top of it.

Eliminate Clutter

- Organizing and de-cluttering can make even an older home look good.
- Go through closets and cabinets to identify items that you no longer need or use.
- Donate old clothes, appliances and furniture to charity.
- Keep a basket in the kitchen for the mail, newspaper and car keys so that they're always in the same place.

General

- Wash all windows and screens inside and out
- Clean all light fixtures and light bulbs
- Wipe down ceiling fans
- Dust cobwebs from the corners of the ceilings.
- Dust the tops of doors and all horizontal surfaces
- Move all furniture to clean under and behind
- Remove all knick knacks to clean underneath
- Polish all furniture
- Wash all rugs and mats
- Clean all switch plate covers, door knobs and telephones
- Spot clean walls
- Empty all trash receptacles, clean and disinfect

Room-by-Room Checklist

Even the most-cared-for home needs an occasional deep-cleaning especially before putting the home on the market, so here's a simple and exhaustive list to help you get your home in tip-top shape.

Entryway

- Hose down entry above and around door and light fixture
- Polish exterior light fixtures and door hardware
- Clear yard of all unnecessary items

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Kitchen:

- Vacuum, mop and wax the wood floors.
- Vacuum and then mop your linoleum or your vinyl floors.
- Wash and clean the baseboards.
- Scrub countertops
- Clean cabinets inside and out and on top
- Clean the inside and the outside of the refrigerator.
- Clean the inside and the outside of the stove.
- Clean the inside and the outside of the microwave.
- Change the shelf liners.
- Clean out the junk drawer and organize the other drawers.
- Wipe inside and outside the cabinets.

Bathroom:

- Wash the walls.
- Scrub bathtub, sinks and toilets inside and out
- Scrub floors and baseboards
- Wash and polish all mirrors
- Wash and polish all fixtures
- Keep a hamper in every bathroom for dirty clothes.

Bedrooms:

- Change the bed linens
- Flip the mattress's

Garage:

- Make sure everything is well lit, well organized and clean

Closets:

- Donate clothing you no longer use to charity.
- Vacuum the floors.
- Dust the walls and the shelves.
- Place cedar blocks in the closet to freshen the air and prevent moths.

Window Cleaning:

- Wash the windows.
- Dust the windowsills.
- Clean window tracks
- Clean the window screens
- Vacuum or dust the draperies.
- Wash or dry clean the blinds.

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Furniture Cleaning:

- Polish the wood furniture.
- Vacuum cloth upholstery.
- Clean and condition leather upholstery.
- Vacuum under and in between cushions.
- Clean under the couches.

Cleaning Base Boards:

1. Grab a clean absorbent rag and dampen it in a soapy solution, wringing it as dry as possible.
2. Start at one end of the baseboard and wipe all the way along the top and the sides. Go around the room.
3. By the time you finish, the cleaned baseboard should be dry.
4. Go over the baseboards again with a used fabric softener tissue from your dryer. This will help prevent dust from settling on the clean baseboard.

Floor Cleaning:

- Sprinkle baking soda on your carpets to absorb stale or musty odors. Vacuum after 1 hour. Better yet, have them professionally cleaned before showing.
- Buy floor mats for every entrance. They do help reduce tracked in dirt.
- Freshen hardwoods with a product called HOPE'S Floor Revive*
- For detailed information on cleaning vinyl, slate, and linoleum, just google it!



Note on Air Fresheners

The best smell is CLEAN! Don't try to cover up odors with heavy scents, sprays, plug-in's, ect. Fabreeze is a good product that effectively reduces odor but the goal is to eliminate it instead of trying to disguise it. PureAyre and AtmosKlear are also good products that can be found on the internet.

Smoke Damage

If there is smoke damage, besides cleaning every surface and cleaning all drapery and upholstery, you will need to paint all interior walls.

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Restor-A-Finish is a wonderful product you can use to restore color and luster to cabinets, doors, trim and furniture.

