



## Cleaning Checklist

If you're not willing to do the necessary cleaning yourself before showing your home, consider having a professional clean it, leaving you to simply maintain the work for the period the home is on the market.

- € Vacuum and mop **every** room of the house. Be sure to get under furniture and in all corners. Consider having carpets steam cleaned if especially soiled.
- € Clean all bathrooms – scrub every inch of the bathroom, and make it shine. Be sure the toilet seat lid is down at all times when showing the house.
- € 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, consider using a grout whitener, available at most hardware stores.
- € Clean all mirrors – these help reflect light and give rooms a soft glow.
- € Clean all sinks and faucets. If stainless steel, ensure on a daily basis that these shine.
- € Clean windows inside and out – this allows for more light to come in
- € Empty garbage regularly as the house is being shown.
- € Light switches – many don't realize how much we use our light switches, and how dirty they can get. Check all switches and face plates and clean as needed.
- € Kitchen cupboards – clean inside and out. Check the cupboard doors, especially under the sink – has water dripped down and left marks?
- € Clean all doors and cupboards, especially around the handles, for finger prints.
- € Wipe down all base boards and door frames
- € Clean all appliances, including knobs and handles
- € Yard – FALL: be sure leaves are raked; SPRING/SUMMER: be sure lawn is mowed and grass raked up, and all toys are stored; WINTER: keep driveway and all walk-ways clear of snow and ice
- € Odours – We've all heard the recommended "bake cookies before an open house", but sometimes that's not always possible. Baking a halved lemon for about 15 minutes before a showing is another great idea, and keeping fresh herbs in pots around the house such as mint and sweet basil add greenery and a wonderful scent.

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