



## Cleaning Checklist

Depending on the size of your home, and your schedule, getting your home “white-glove” clean can prove challenging. If you’re unable to do the necessary cleaning yourself before listing your home, consider having a professional clean it, leaving you to simply maintain the work for the period that the home is on the market.

- ☐ Vacuum and mop **every** room of the house. Be sure to get under furniture and in all corners. Carpets should be professionally steam cleaned.
- ☐ Clean all bathrooms – scrub every inch of the bathroom, and make it shine – this includes towel bars, toilet paper roll holders, etc.
- ☐ 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, use a grout whitener, available at most hardware stores. Best Cleaner: 3 parts baking soda with 1 parts peroxide – mix and apply to surface, leave for 15 minutes, clean with a brush. For a large area, consider hiring a professional to steam clean the grout.
- ☐ Clean all mirrors – remember that 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.
- ☐ Clean window trims and ledges – dust and fingerprints can build up here.
- ☐ Light switches and outlets – many don’t realize how much we use our light switches, and how dirty they can get. Check all switches, face plates, and outlets regularly and clean as needed.
- ☐ Kitchen cupboards, shelves, and drawers – 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 fingerprints.
- ☐ Wipe down all baseboards and doorframes. Apply fresh paint if necessary.
- ☐ Look up – dust and clean the tops of doorframes, check crown moldings, sweep cobwebs, dust ceiling fan blades, and dust artwork and mirrors, including the top of the 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 out of view; 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, not to mention that it leaves a mess to clean up after. Some BTSH recommended alternatives: bake a halved lemon for approximately 15 minutes, keep fresh potted herbs throughout the house, and open windows to release stale air. **Favourite Natural Air Freshener:** Fill a baking pan with approximately ½ inch of water, add orange slices and a few teaspoons of cinnamon and bake at 350° for at least 15 minutes.