

Cleaning Checklist

You need to really CLEAN if you want to get your entire security deposit back when you move out. The law states you are responsible for leaving the property in the same or better condition as when you moved in. This can be subjective unless you and your landlord documented the condition of the property when you moved in. Leaving it very clean will also help ensure a good reference for the future.

You will need a bucket, mop, broom, dust pan, vacuum cleaner, extra vacuum bags, toilet brush, rags, paper towels, sponges and more. Cleansers that you may need: window, floor, and appliance cleansers, non-abrasive products, oven cleaner and all-purpose cleansers. Ask your landlord if there is any particular cleanser you should or should NOT use, especially if you have hardwood or special tile floors and/or wood cabinets.

Expect that your idea of clean and their idea of clean will most likely be different. Take photos when done.

Entire Dwelling:

- Remove *all* of your belongings
- Repair any minor damage you caused. If substantial, hire a professional to fix it
- Wash down walls, light socket covers, the heater vents and baseboards with a clean rag soaked in a diluted solution of dish detergent & warm water
- Wash windows, inside and out
- Dust and clean out cobwebs
- Vacuum and sweep floors
- Wipe and dust window blinds and sills
- Wipe down shelves in closets
- Remove all garbage and clean trash receptacles
- Wash light fixtures and replace burned out light bulbs

Bathroom:

- Sink, tub and shower: Scrub with disinfectant cleanser
- Remove all dirt and stains
- Scrub toilet inside and out
- Wash shower curtain in a hot washing machine cycle with towels, detergent and vinegar; hang to dry
- Clean mirrors with glass cleaner
- Wipe down all surfaces with mild cleanser, including cabinets, drawers (inside and out), and vents
- Sweep or vacuum floor
- Mop floor with cleanser
- Vacuum and/or wash rugs

Kitchen:

- Wipe down all surfaces with cleanser
- Wipe all cabinets and drawers, inside and out
- Remove all food from refrigerator
- Clean inside and outside of refrigerator with disinfectant cleanser
- Defrost freezer if there is any ice build up inside
- Clean stovetop and sink
- Clean inside oven with oven cleaner
- Clean hood fan and vent filter
- Clean under and around burners
- Sweep or vacuum floor
- Mop floor—do this last

Garage/Driveway:

- Sweep
- Clean oil stains
- Clean out any storage closets
- Clear out all refuse, boxes, and debris
- Haul away unwanted furniture

Yard:

- Remember you are responsible to return the property in similar condition as it was when you moved in. This means the yard too.

Clean the unit thoroughly. If possible, move out a few days early so you can have enough time to correct any areas that the landlord feels are not up to expectation. It is much less expensive for you to do the cleaning than for the landlord to hire a professional and charge you.

About Carpets, Drapes and Painting

- If your rental agreement or lease states to clean the carpet and window coverings or they were cleaned when you moved in, you are obligated to clean them.
- If your rental agreement or lease states to paint the premises, then you are obligated to do so.
- You are not required to repaint your rental when you move out, unless you have caused damages to the walls. However, holes left by nails must be filled in with spackle and painted over. Be sure to ask your landlord *how* they want them handled. Be careful not to end up with a larger problem than when you started.
- The tenant is responsible for repairing any damages caused by the tenant or guest negligence, with the exception of normal “wear and tear.” This can be very subjective, and your obligations for painting and cleaning carpets and drapes vary according to the length of your residence.

Waste Removal

- **Santa Cruz City Resource Recovery Facility & Recycling Center:** 605 Dimeo Lane - 3 miles North of Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz and North county residents only. ID with resident’s address required. All landfills are closed on major holidays. Accepts computers and TVs at no cost.
Open Monday-Saturday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm (closed Sunday).
Minimum charge is \$15.57. Call (831) 420-6270 for recorded information or (831) 420-5220 to speak with a person, or see cityofsantacruz.com.
- **Buena Vista Landfill for Santa Cruz County:** 1231 Buena Vista Drive, Watsonville - 1 mile south of Highway 1. Mainly serves residents of unincorporated Santa Cruz County and Scotts Valley. ID with resident’s address is required. All others pay a 28% surcharge.
Open 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, seven days a week.
Minimum charge is \$16.00. Call (831) 454-2430 for recorded information on hazardous waste disposal and (831) 454-5154 to speak with a person. See santacruzcountyrecycles.org for exact information on waste and fees.
- **Ben Lomond Transfer Station:** 9835 Newell Creek Road - 1 mile north of Glen Arbor Road. Mainly serves residents of unincorporated Santa Cruz County and Scotts Valley. ID with resident’s address is required. All others pay a 28% surcharge.
Open Monday-Sunday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm
Minimum charge (based on size of load) is \$16.00. Call (831) 454-2430 for recorded information and (831) 336-3951 to speak with a person, or go to santacruzcountyrecycles.org for more information.
- Twice a year during the fall and spring, the City of Santa Cruz offers free curbside pick up of appliances and computers. Call (831) 420-5220 to inquire about dates.