

“Get-Your-Deposit-Back” Checklist



brought to you by:



KITCHEN

You can expect to spend some time in the kitchen on move-out day.

Preparing and cooking meals day in and day out means a lot of grime and grease build-up, not to mention the stray crumb and shall we say, general food detritus, that somehow manages to escape the daily sweep.

Fridge

Remove all the food

Take out shelves and drawers and let them soak in warm water with dish soap, then scrub clean

Wipe down the inside with soapy water.

If you've still got dirt or stains you still can't get out, try some of [our DIY natural cleaner solutions](#).

Microwave

Fill a bowl with a cup of water and a few tablespoons of white vinegar and stick it in the microwave.

Run the microwave for a few minutes.

Take out the bowl and scrub the inside of the microwave clean.

Oven

Take everything out of the oven.

Make a cleaning paste by mixing a half a cup of baking soda with just a few spoonfuls of water. Tinker with the ratio until it's a paste that you can spread across the inside surface of the oven.

Rub the paste over all the inside walls and top and bottom of the oven (gloves are recommended). Let it sit for at least 12 hours.

Wipe out the paste with a wet towel.

If there's any residue left, try scrubbing out with towel and some white vinegar.

Finish it off with a clean water wipe-down.

Pro-tip: If you want to skip the DIY approach, you can try a [store-bought oven cleaner](#), or check if your oven has a “self-clean” feature. Or [hire a professional cleaner](#) and let them deal with it.

Floors

Pay special attention to the floors in your kitchen, as they probably have some crusty bits in hard-to-reach places. If you can, move the fridge and oven and sweep and mop those spots.

You might need to get down on your hands and knees and scrub extra hard.

[10 Genius Housecleaning Hacks to make sure those kitchen tiles get sparkly clean >](#)

CARPET

Vacuum

Start by vacuuming all the carpets after you've moved everything out of the house.

Steam Clean

Your rental agreement may require that you steam clean the carpets before you move out. Check with your landlord if you aren't sure.

You can rent a carpet steam cleaner at your local hardware store, or [hire a professional cleaner](#) to take care of the job

Pro-tip: Simplify the job of cleaning up your floors by keeping them from getting dirty in the first place. [Get more tips for protecting your carpet >](#)

WALLS

Fix Nail Holes

If you're an art-lover, you've probably left the scars of your passion on the walls of your rental in the form of nail holes.

Pull out all the nails and [fill the holes with toothpaste](#).

Paint Touch-Ups

Your landlord might have some buckets of paint in the color of your walls for touch-ups. Use this to cover up any holes you patched.

Repaint

If you re-painted any walls, ask your landlord if you need to repaint to the original color.

Smokers Beware

More than likely, your rental agreement doesn't allow smoking indoors, but if it does (or if you smoked indoors anyway), you may have some coloration on the walls, which means a paint job just got added to your to-do list.

BATHROOM

Like the kitchen, a lot goes down in the bathroom, to put it mildly. That means it should be another focal point of your clean-up efforts.

- Grout**
Grout has a rough texture, which means it puts up a fight when you try to clean out the gunk that might have collected in it. It also holds moisture, leading to mildew build-up.
- Start DIY:** Apply a 50/50 solution of water and white vinegar to the grout and let sit for at least 5 minutes, then scrub clean with a toothbrush. A solution of 2 parts baking soda to 1 part water may also do the trick, and is more gentle on porous tiles such as marble.
- Try Sandpaper:** You can grind out the stained bits of grout with sandpaper. Fold a medium-grit paper to fit into the grout and scrub, avoiding the tiles.
- Erase It:** A white artist’s eraser can be used to pull off some of the discoloration on the grout.
- Commercial Cleaners:** Head to the store and pick out a grout cleaner that is suited for the type of tile you have, and follow the instructions closely. The wrong type of cleaner or misapplication could lead to erosion of your tiles.
- Steam Cleaner:** A steam cleaner uses heated, pressurized water to give a super-powered washing to whatever you throw it at. A steam cleaner backed by some good old elbow grease may do the trick. You can usually rent these at your local hardware store. Make sure you get a multi-purpose one, not just a floor one for use on carpet.
- Grout Pen:** A grout pen is basically like white out for your grout. It doesn’t remove the mildew or stains, it just covers them up. However, it can be the easiest fix, and most grout pens include chemicals to resist growth of bacteria and mold.
- A Little Bit of Everything:** Try any or all of the above until you find the right combination of tactics that get your grout clean.

SHOWER & SINK FAUCET HEADS

- Mildew likes moisture, which makes the little nooks and crannies in and around your faucet heads prime breeding ground.

Additionally, you can expect to find scaling (that white stuff) if you’ve got hard water ([something you may deal with in Boulder County](#)).
- Fill a plastic bag with white vinegar and secure it over the heads (some rubber bands should do the trick).

You just need enough liquid in the bag to cover the parts of the faucet head you are trying to clean.

Let it sit for a few hours, then remove the bag and scrub the head clean with some soapy water.

YARD

If you’re renting a house, there’s a [good chance](#) you’re responsible for maintaining the yard.

- Trim Trees**
Only worry about this if the trees are interfering with the house, adjacent properties, or the public sidewalk.
- Remove debris**
Boulder County offers a number of facilities for getting rid of your lawn debris, from leaves and grass clippings to branches, pinecones, and decaying wood. [Learn where to dispose of yard waste in the Boulder/Longmont area >](#)