

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 from the landlord for future rentals.

You will need a bucket, mop, broom, dust pan, vacuum cleaner, extra vacuum bags, toilet brush, rags, rubber gloves, 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 a self-cleaning oven, hardwood or special tile floors, granite countertops or stainless steel appliances, 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:

- Scrub sink, tub, and shower with disinfectant cleanser
- Remove all dirt and stains
- Scrub toilet inside and out
- Wash plastic shower curtain liner in a hot washing machine cycle with towels, detergent and vinegar; hang to dry
- Remove hair from drain and make sure they are not clogged (should be done as routine maintenance).
- 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

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. If electricity is shut off, leave door ajar
- 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 items

Yard:

- Remember you are responsible to return the property in the same 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 believes are not up to expectations. 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 just before you moved in, you are obligated to clean them.
- You are not required to repaint your rental when you move out, unless you have caused damages to the walls. 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. However, if your rental agreement or lease states to paint the premises, then you are obligated to do so or pay for it to be done.
- 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 tenancy.

Waste Removal

- **Chanticleer Recycling Center:** 2710 Chanticleer Avenue, Santa Cruz- Located at the last entrance at our Chanticleer campus (just past the thrift store).
Open Monday- Sunday, 7:30am-3:45pm
See their [website](#) for accepted waste products, or call 831- 479-1055
- **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 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Minimum charge is \$17/yd. Call (831) 420-6270 for recorded information or (831) 420-5220 to speak with a person, or see cityofsantacruz.com.
- **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.
Open Monday-Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Minimum charge (based on size of load) is \$17.00. 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. They will also pick up other items, such as sofas, if stickers that are given out at the beginning of the year are placed on those items. At the end of Spring Quarter the city offers free bulky item hauling. For more information call (831) 420-5220 to inquire about dates.