Residential Move In/Move Out Cleaning Checklist

This fully detailed checklist outlines comprehensive move in/move out cleaning procedures for a residential property. It includes extensive surface-level detail, high-touch points, visible surfaces, and accessible areas, as well as wall scrubbing/cleaning and deep cleaning inside all cabinets, drawers, and major appliances.

Whole House – General

- Dust and wipe all surfaces: furniture tops, baseboards, crown moldings, trim, window sills, ledges, mantels, and shelving
- Dust and wipe ceiling fans, light fixtures, air vents, smoke detectors, and exhaust covers
- Wash interior doors, door frames, switch plates, and trim for smudges and buildup
- Spot clean/wash walls; remove fingerprints, scuffs, cobwebs, and dirt (especially in corners and high-traffic areas)
- Disinfect all high-touch points: doorknobs, handrails, banisters, light switches, outlet covers, and thermostats
- Vacuum carpets thoroughly including edges, corners, closets, and under baseboards with crevice tools
- Mop hard floors with appropriate cleaners, focusing on corners, grout lines, and under/behind furniture
- Remove cobwebs from ceilings, wall corners, closets, and ceiling fixtures
- Clean interior windows, tracks, blinds, and sills; polish glass streak-free
- Wipe closet shelving, rods, built-ins, and ledges
- Clean both sides of all doors throughout the property

Living Room / Common Areas

- Dust and polish furniture, décor, picture frames, mirrors, shelving, and mantels
- Vacuum upholstered furniture and cushions; clean under cushions and crevices
- Sanitize remote controls, electronics, and light switches
- Wipe lamps, lampshades, curtain rods, and blinds
- Clean all glass tabletops, sliding glass doors, and mirrors
- Vacuum or mop under and behind large furniture, only if it's safe for the cleaner to move or it has already been moved
- Dust baseboards, crown moldings, corners, and ceiling edges

Bedrooms

- Dust and wipe furniture (dressers, nightstands, headboards, lamps, décor)
- Wipe closet shelves, rods, trim, and doors inside and out
- Vacuum or mop floors including under beds and behind furniture
- Clean mirrors, glass, and window sills
- Dust blinds and remove smudges from window glass and trim
- Disinfect switches, handles, drawer pulls, and closet knobs

Kitchen

- Disinfect countertops and backsplash thoroughly
- Scrub sink, faucet, and drain edges; polish stainless steel surfaces
- Clean inside/outside refrigerator and freezer: shelves, drawers, and door seals

- Clean oven and stovetop inside/outside; scrub racks, drip pans, and burners
- Clean inside/outside microwave thoroughly, including turntable and vents
- Clean inside/outside dishwasher, including gasket and filter
- Wipe all cabinets/drawers inside and out, including shelves, hardware, and tracks
- Sanitize backsplash, switches, outlet covers, and trim
- Move appliances and clean behind/underneath, only if it's safe for the cleaner to do so or the appliances have already been moved prior to our arrival
- Sweep and mop floor thoroughly, paying attention to corners and edges
- Clean range hood and vent filter
- Empty trash, sanitize bin inside/out, and replace liner

Bathrooms

- Scrub/disinfect toilets inside, base, lid, and behind
- Scrub sinks, faucets, drains, and counters
- Clean tubs, showers, tiles, grout, and fixtures; descale showerheads and faucets
- Clean shower doors and tracks; polish mirrors and chrome streak-free
- Wipe cabinets/drawers inside/out, including handles and hinges
- Wash towel racks, shelving, switches, and baseboards
- Spot clean walls, especially near sinks and toilets
- Empty/sanitize trash bins inside/out
- Sweep/mop floors with disinfectant, especially around toilet bases
- Dust vents, fans, and light fixtures

Laundry Room

- Wipe inside/outside of washer and dryer, including dispensers and control panels
- Remove lint and wipe dryer opening and filter area
- Sweep/mop floors, including behind/under machines, only if it's safe for the cleaner to move them or they've already been moved
- Clean/disinfect laundry sink and faucet
- Wipe shelving, cabinetry, and counters inside/out
- Sanitize switches, handles, and knobs

Entryways / Hallways / Stairs

- Sweep/vacuum/mop floors and stairs
- Clean railings, balusters, and newel posts thoroughly
- Wipe front, back, and interior doors, including glass inserts
- Dust/wipe light fixtures, switches, baseboards, and décor
- Spot clean walls, corners, and edges
- Wipe closet doors, shelving, and rods

Not Included

- Removal or hauling away of junk, debris, or abandoned items (available as an add-on)
- Laundry and dishwashing (available as an add-on)
- Exterior window washing (available as an add-on)
- Carpet shampooing or steam cleaning (available as an add-on)
- Repairs, painting, or patching walls
- Mold, pest, or biohazard cleanup
- Moving furniture or appliances beyond what's safe for the cleaner — see note above