



Pre-Move Furniture Cleaning Checklist

A step-by-step guide to getting your security deposit back and protecting your furniture during the move

Print this checklist and use it to track your progress as you clean each piece of furniture before moving day.

QUICK TIPS

- ✓ Start cleaning at least 7–10 days before moving day
- ✓ Always test cleaners on a hidden spot first
- ✓ Let furniture dry completely before wrapping
- ✓ Use a soft blanket before applying any plastic wrap

The Checklist — 10 Steps

- ☐ **1. Check the furniture material and finish type before starting**
Wood, fabric, leather, glass, or metal — each needs a different cleaning method
- ☐ **2. Photograph any existing damage (scratches, dents) for your records**
Take photos before cleaning — useful for security deposit disputes
- ☐ **3. Empty all drawers completely and remove any loose parts or hardware**
Remove knobs, shelves, table leaves, and detachable parts
- ☐ **4. Vacuum all visible surfaces, undersides, and hidden tracks**
Use a soft-brush attachment to avoid scratches
- ☐ **5. Test your chosen cleaners on a concealed spot first**
Test on a hidden area like inside a drawer or under a cushion
- ☐ **6. Clean methodically with a material-compatible method**
Wood: gentle wipe • Fabric: spot-clean • Leather: specific cleaner
- ☐ **7. Allow every single area to air-dry completely**
Wait at least 24 hours for upholstery and 2–4 hours for wood

☐ 8. **Cover the piece with a soft protective layer (moving blanket)**

Use a clean furniture pad or moving blanket as the first layer

☐ 9. **Add cardboard corner and edge protection**

Protect corners, edges, arms, and legs from bumps

☐ 10. **Secure everything tightly with an outer layer of stretch wrap**

Apply stretch wrap over the blanket, not directly on the furniture

Material-Specific Cleaning Cheat Sheet

Material	Recommended Method	What to Avoid
Wood	Vacuum, wipe with barely damp microfiber cloth, dry immediately	Excess water, abrasive cleaners
Upholstery	Vacuum, spot-clean with compatible cleaner, deodorize with baking soda	Over-wetting, harsh chemicals
Leather	Dust, clean with leather-specific cleaner, condition	Alcohol, bleach, excess water
Glass/Metal	Non-abrasive cleaner, dry edges thoroughly	Abrasive sponges, excess water on joints
Mattress	Vacuum, sprinkle baking soda, air out in sunlight	Excess moisture, harsh chemicals

Drying Time Reference Guide

Material	Minimum Drying Time	Best Practice
Wood	2–4 hours	Overnight is best
Upholstery	12–24 hours	2–3 days if deep-cleaned
Leather	4–6 hours	12 hours is ideal
Glass/Metal	1–2 hours	4 hours is safe
Mattress	4–8 hours	24 hours in sunlight is ideal

Bonus: Essential Cleaning Supplies Checklist

Category	Supplies
☐ General	Microfiber cloths, vacuum with soft-brush attachment, dry towel
☐ Wood Cleaners	Wood-specific cleaner, wood polish, scratch repair markers
☐ Upholstery Cleaners	Upholstery cleaner, baking soda, white vinegar, dish soap
☐ Leather Cleaners	Leather-specific cleaner, leather conditioner
☐ Glass/Metal	Glass cleaner, non-abrasive cleaner, mineral oil
☐ Protection	Moving blankets, furniture pads, corner protectors, stretch wrap

My Notes

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