

The Alberta Move-Out Cleaning Checklist

Built around the rooms the Alberta move-out inspection report actually scores. Alberta has no mandatory cleaning form, so this is the practical, close-to-universal standard. Clean to it, photograph it, and you hand over proof instead of hoping for the best.

DO

- ✓ Complete BOTH the move-in and move-out inspection reports — deposit deductions for damage legally require them.
- ✓ Clean to the rooms the inspection report scores (this checklist mirrors them).
- ✓ Photograph every room after cleaning, before furniture is gone — photos are useful evidence of condition.
- ✓ Keep your invoice, checklist and photos until your deposit is resolved.
- ✓ Give your forwarding address so the deposit and statement of account can reach you (10-day window).

DON'T

- ✗ Don't assume a spotless clean overrides a non-refundable cleaning fee written into your lease — it doesn't.
- ✗ Don't hide stains, burns or damage — note them; your move-in report is your defence for anything pre-existing.
- ✗ Don't skip the oven, bathroom grout, or floor edges — they're the most-flagged items.
- ✗ Don't expect a deduction for normal wear and tear — landlords can't take that from your deposit.
- ✗ Don't treat the cleaning report as the official inspection report — it supports it, it doesn't replace it.

1 KITCHEN

- Oven interior, racks, door glass, burners, knobs, drip trays
- Range hood, filter, fan cover, grease residue
- Fridge inside, seals, shelves, drawers; pull out, clean behind/under
- Stove pulled out, cleaned behind and under
- Microwave inside and out (if included)
- Dishwasher door, edges, filter area
- Cupboards and drawers inside and out, handles
- Counters, backsplash, sink, faucet, drain
- Food residue off walls near cooking area
- Floor swept and washed

3 BEDROOMS & LIVING AREAS

- Baseboards wiped
- Visible wall marks spot-cleaned (where safe)
- Closet shelves, rods, doors, tracks
- Light fixtures, ceiling fans, vents dusted
- Burnt-out bulbs replaced (if approved)
- Carpets vacuumed; stains/burns noted, not hidden
- Hard floors washed

5 LAUNDRY & UTILITY

- Washer and dryer exteriors wiped
- Lint trap cleaned
- Laundry sink wiped (if present)
- Floor swept and washed

2 BATHROOMS

- Tub / shower walls, base, glass, tracks, fixtures
- Soap scum and hard-water buildup removed
- Toilet bowl, seat, base, and behind
- Sink, vanity, faucet, drain
- Mirror and medicine cabinet
- Cupboards inside and out
- Exhaust fan cover, towel bars, TP holder
- Tile and grout where accessible
- Floor swept and washed

4 WINDOWS, DOORS & TRACKS

- Interior glass cleaned where reachable
- Window sills, frames, and tracks
- Patio and closet door tracks
- Blinds / coverings dusted (if included)
- Fingerprints off doors and handles

6 ENTRY, BALCONY, GARAGE

- Entry and landing swept
- Inside front door and handles wiped
- Entry closet floor and shelf
- Balcony swept (weather permitting, if included)
- Garage / parking area swept (if in scope)

7 FINAL WALKTHROUGH & HANDOVER

- All personal items removed
- Garbage removed (if included)
- Taps off, no appliances left damaged
- Fridge door left open if power is off
- All keys, fobs, and remotes returned
- Move-out inspection report signed with landlord
- Photos taken of every room
- Forwarding address given for deposit return

PHOTO PROOF – CAPTURE BEFORE YOU HAND OVER THE KEYS

Oven interior · Fridge interior · Each bathroom · Kitchen sink & counters · Cupboards open · Window tracks · Closets · Main floors · Any pre-existing damage · Full room walkthroughs.

WHY THIS CHECKLIST

Alberta requires a written move-in and move-out inspection report, but there is no government cleaning form, so every landlord's list is different. A landlord can only deduct from your deposit for cleaning beyond normal wear and tear, and only when proper inspection reports are completed. This document supports the official move-out inspection report — it does not replace it. General information, not legal advice.