

Cleaning Your Apartment

Here are some recommendations for cleaning your apartment and what products to use. Our intent is to let you know what type of product you might use for each job so that you can locate them at the store when you go shopping. Many other products are available and work well, too. Always follow the directions given on the product.

Bathroom

You should clean your bathroom once a week. Here are some tips:

Use a bathroom cleaner to clean your sink, tub/shower, and outside of the toilet. Spray the cleaner on the surface and wipe with a wet, warm microfiber cloth or paper towel.

Here are some products that you can use:



Here are some microfiber cloths you can use to wipe:



You can also use a disposable antibacterial wipe to wipe surfaces: (Some say flushable – only flush this kind down the toilet and then just flush one at a time.)



Tub/shower

To clean stains that are hard to get off, such as soap scum or mold in your tub or on the tub/shower walls, you can use Soft Scrub with or without bleach and a scrubbing brush. Be careful with any product with bleach in it – it can discolor your clothing.



Toilet Bowl

Use a toilet bowl cleaner and a toilet brush to clean the inside of your toilet. First flush the toilet. Open the bottle by squeezing on the cap end with 2 fingers and twist while squeezing. Then squirt the cleaner around the bowl and especially under the top rim. Let it soak about 15 minutes and then scrub with the toilet brush, especially under the top rim. Flush the toilet and use the clean water to rinse the toilet brush. Hang the toilet brush over the toilet with the brush's handle placed under the toilet seat for about an hour to let it dry before you put it away in its caddy. Here is a toilet brush with a caddy and some toilet bowl cleaners you can use:



How to clean a toilet video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fCsipeJr2E>

You can also use Clorox tablets in the toilet tank behind the toilet seat. To use the cleaning tablets, cut one tablet open, but do not touch it. Hold the tablet with the wrapper. Flush the toilet, and when the water has all emptied from the tank, drop the tablet into the back right hand corner of your toilet tank. The tablet will last about 3 months.



How to use toilet chlorine tablets: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKfGTuYsLOg>

Clogged toilet

If your toilet becomes clogged, use a toilet plunger to loosen the blockage until toilet flushes.



How to plunge a toilet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-gAsNf2nls>

If the toilet is overflowing, first turn off the water at the base of the toilet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7U-nU4RYQsc>

Clogged sink

If a sink is draining slowly, then it is probably clogged with hair. Use these products to unclog the drain. Pour in quite a bit and let it sit for about 20 minutes. Then turn on the hot water for about a minute to clear out the clog.



Mirrors

To clean a mirror, use a window/mirror/glass cleaner and microfiber cloth or paper towel to wipe:



How to clean a mirror: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMk7ieIK5kw>

Kitchen

You should clean kitchen surfaces once a week or when they are dirty after use.

Use liquid dishwashing soap to clean your dishes in the sink if not using the dishwasher. Put a little bit in your sink and add hot water. Use a dish cloth or microfiber cloth to wash dishes.



You can also use the dishwashing soap with a wet warm cloth to clean kitchen surfaces such as the counter, the top of the stove, refrigerator surfaces inside and out, the front and top of the dishwasher, and inside and outside of the microwave. Rinse out the rag with warm water and wipe again. You can use the soapy cloth to wipe your kitchen table, but if it is made of wood, make sure the cloth is not very wet (just damp and wrung out) and be sure to dry the table with a dry cloth afterwards. For wood tables, you might want to use placemats and coasters to protect the wood surface.

You can also use multi-purpose cleaners with a microfiber cloth or paper towel or use disposable wipes for kitchen surfaces. Do not use them on wood surfaces.



Smooth cooktop stoves

There are special cleaners and scrubbing pads for smooth top cook stoves. Do NOT use steel wool or abrasive pads. They will scratch the top. Here are some products you can use:



Oven

If something spills or bubbles over inside the oven, first let the oven cool and then wipe up the spill. If food becomes baked on, then you may want to periodically clean the inside of the oven. Some of our apartments have self-cleaning ovens. If you do, then follow the oven's user's manual directions. Most of our apartments do not have self-cleaning ovens. You can use an oven cleaning product such as Easy Off. Spray the inside of the oven and let it soak for about 2 hours. Then wipe out the residue with a damp cloth.



Dishwasher

If you have a dishwasher, use soap for dishwashers. You can use a powder form or the pods. Do not use the liquid dishwashing soap in your dishwasher. Pour some of the powder into the bin and shut the little door before starting the dishwasher. Or put a pod in the bin and shut the little door.



Refrigerator

In order to keep the refrigerator running efficiently, the kitchen floor should be swept and mopped at least once a week. The refrigerator has cooling coils and a fan near the floor. The fan pulls in air to cool the coils. Any dust on the floor is pulled in and collects on the coils and lowers the efficiency of the refrigerator. If the coils get very dirty, the refrigerator does not cool properly.

Wipe out shelves, doors, and drawers with soapy wet cloth every 2 months or so or when there is a spill.

Floors

For a hard surface floor, use a broom and dust pan to sweep up crumbs or debris on the floor. This might be needed every day. Use a vacuum cleaner to vacuum carpet or any other floor surface. Do this once a week.



To mop the bathroom or kitchen floor, you can use a Swiffer Dry/Wet Mop with disposable wet pads. Attach a new pad each time and throw the old pad away. Do this about once a week or when there is a spill or the floor is sticky.



Furniture

Use dust spray and a microfiber/dust cloth to dust wooden tables, desks, dressers, and chests and to dust lamps or light fixtures.

Use coasters to protect wooden table, desk and dresser tops from wet glasses. If wooden surfaces become wet, be sure to dry them with a cloth.

For your wood kitchen table, you might want to use placemats to protect the surface. Do not set hot pans on the table surface.

Use window/mirror/glass cleaner such as Windex and a cloth to wipe glass table tops and mirrors.



Allow drapes or blinds to hang free – keep beds and desks back a little.

To move desks, dressers, etc., lift, do not drag, as this will break legs or supports.