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GUIDE

YOUR MOVE-IN CLEANING CHECKLIST: STARTING FRESH IN A NEW HOME

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INTRODUCTION:

MAKING YOUR NEW HOME FEEL LIKE YOURS

Moving into a new home is an exciting opportunity for a fresh start. But before you start unpacking, it's essential to ensure your new space is clean, sanitized, and ready for you to settle in. This guide, Your Move-In Cleaning Checklist: Starting Fresh in a New Home, will help you tackle every area of your new home, ensuring it's spotless, welcoming, and ready for your personal touch. Whether you're moving into a newly built home or one that's been lived in before, this guide will walk you through every step of the cleaning process to make your new house feel like home.

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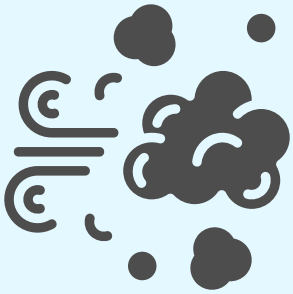
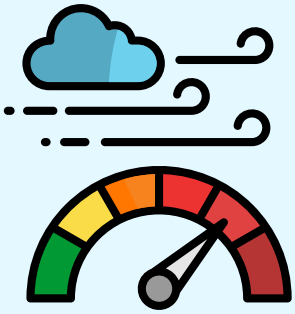
CHAPTER 1: THE IMPORTANCE OF A MOVE-IN DEEP CLEAN

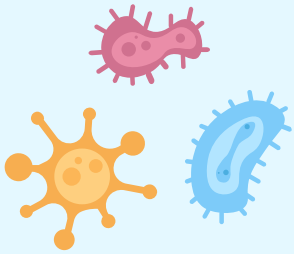
Before unpacking and arranging your furniture, a thorough deep clean is essential to remove any lingering dirt, dust, and germs left by previous occupants or contractors. A clean space not only improves air quality and hygiene but also provides peace of mind as you settle into your new environment. In this chapter, we'll discuss the key reasons why a move-in deep clean is crucial for making your new home a healthy, welcoming place to live.



1. Removing Lingering Dirt, Dust, and Debris
Even if your new home appears clean at first glance, there's often residual dust, dirt, and debris hiding in corners, under cabinets, and on surfaces that are not immediately noticeable. This is especially true if the home has undergone recent construction or renovations. A move-in deep clean ensures that all these hidden areas are addressed, creating a truly fresh start



2. Improving Indoor Air Quality
A deep clean before move-in can significantly enhance indoor air quality by reducing dust, allergens, and other airborne particles that may have accumulated over time. Poor air quality can affect your respiratory health, especially for those with allergies, asthma, or other sensitivities. A move-in deep clean includes steps that can make a marked difference in the freshness and healthiness of your environment



3. Eliminating Germs and Bacteria
Surfaces in a home—especially high-touch areas like doorknobs, light switches, and faucets—can carry germs and bacteria from previous occupants. Sanitizing these areas during a move-in deep clean ensures that you're starting fresh, free from lingering bacteria

CHAPTER 2: ESSENTIAL CLEANING SUPPLIES FOR YOUR NEW HOME

Before you get started with cleaning, it's important to gather the right supplies. From all-purpose cleaners to microfiber cloths, having the proper tools will make the job easier and more efficient. Here's a list of must-have cleaning supplies to tackle your new home:

1. All-Purpose Cleaner

- An all-purpose cleaner is essential for tackling a variety of surfaces, from countertops and sinks to kitchen cabinets and bathroom surfaces. Choose a product that's safe for multiple surfaces to save time and simplify your cleaning routine. Look for one that's non-toxic and environmentally friendly if you prefer natural cleaning options, especially if you have sensitive skin or children in the home.

2. Glass Cleaner

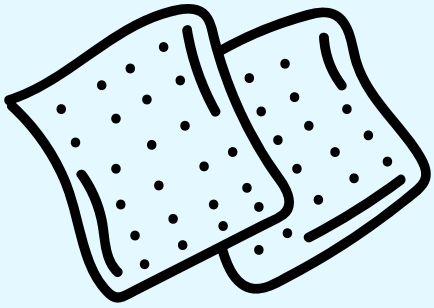
- A good glass cleaner is crucial for leaving windows, mirrors, and glass tabletops spotless. Glass cleaners help remove smudges, fingerprints, and streaks, giving surfaces a crystal-clear finish. For a natural alternative, consider mixing equal parts vinegar and water in a spray bottle to create an effective and streak-free glass cleaner.

3. Disinfectant Wipes

- Disinfectant wipes are convenient for quickly sanitizing high-touch surfaces like doorknobs, light switches, remote controls, and countertops. These wipes help kill germs and bacteria on contact, making them ideal for areas that need frequent disinfection. Look for wipes that are safe for household use and, if possible, avoid those with harsh chemicals for a safer, eco-friendly option.

CHAPTER 2: ESSENTIAL CLEANING SUPPLIES FOR YOUR NEW HOME

4. Microfiber Cloths



- Microfiber cloths are highly absorbent and versatile, making them a cleaning essential. They are gentle on surfaces, effective at trapping dust, and leave a streak-free finish on glass, mirrors, and stainless steel. Microfiber is also reusable and machine washable, making it a sustainable choice. Keep several on hand for different areas (kitchen, bathroom, windows) to avoid cross-contamination.

5. Broom, Mop, and Vacuum

- For maintaining clean floors, a broom, mop, and vacuum are non-negotiable. Use the broom to sweep hard floors and remove loose dirt and dust, while the vacuum handles carpets and rugs. A mop is essential for disinfecting and removing stains from hard surfaces. Consider a microfiber or spray mop, which can often be more effective and less messy than traditional mops.

6. Scrub Brushes and Sponges

- Scrub brushes and sponges are crucial for cleaning tough stains and grime on surfaces like sinks, tubs, and tile grout. Look for different sizes and types of scrub brushes to reach various areas. Soft sponges work well on delicate surfaces, while tougher scrub brushes are best for more stubborn spots. For added convenience, try sponges with a built-in handle to make scrubbing easier and more thorough.

7. Natural Cleaning Products Like Vinegar and Baking Soda

- Vinegar and baking soda are versatile, natural cleaning agents that can tackle many household messes. Vinegar is excellent for disinfecting, cutting through grease, and cleaning glass, while baking soda acts as a natural deodorizer and gentle abrasive. Together, they can be used to clean drains, remove stains, and eliminate odors throughout the home. Having these natural products on hand provides a non-toxic option for various cleaning tasks.

CHAPTER 3: ROOM-BY-ROOM MOVE-IN CLEANING CHECKLIST

Each room in your new home requires specific attention to ensure it's fully clean and ready for your family. This chapter provides a room-by-room cleaning checklist to help you tackle the kitchen, bathrooms, bedrooms, and living areas effectively.

Kitchen:

- Wipe down cabinets (inside and out).
- Clean countertops, sinks, and faucets.
- Scrub appliances, including the fridge, stove, and microwave.
- Sanitize the backsplash and tile grout.
- Sweep and mop the floors.
- Clean light fixtures and vents.

Bathrooms:

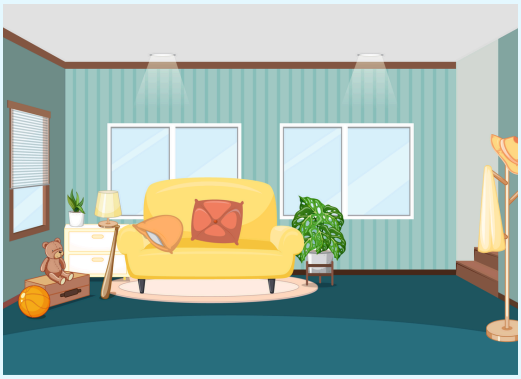
- Scrub toilets, showers, and bathtubs.
- Wipe down sinks, mirrors, and countertops.
- Clean cabinets, drawers, and shelves.
- Disinfect high-touch areas like faucets and door handles.
- Mop and sanitize floors.
- Clean and polish metal fixtures (showerheads, faucets, etc.).

CHAPTER 3: ROOM-BY-ROOM MOVE-IN CLEANING CHECKLIST

Bedrooms:

- Dust surfaces, including baseboards and shelves.
- Wipe down window sills and blinds.
- Vacuum or mop floors.
- Clean closet shelves and organizers.
- Wipe light switches, door handles, and outlets.

Living Room and Common Areas:



- Dust and clean all surfaces, including mantles, shelves, and media stands.
- Vacuum or sweep and mop floors.
- Clean windows, blinds, and window sills.
- Sanitize high-touch areas like door handles, remotes, and light switches.
- Clean vents and light fixtures.

CHAPTER 4: FOCUSING ON HIGH-TOUCH AND HIGH-TRAFFIC AREAS

High-touch surfaces like door handles, light switches, and faucets are hotspots for germs and dirt. High-traffic areas like hallways, entryways, and kitchens tend to accumulate dust and debris quickly. This chapter explains how to give extra attention to these key areas, ensuring they are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before you start moving in your belongings.

1. High-Touch Surfaces: Reducing Germs and Bacteria

High-touch surfaces see frequent use and, as a result, tend to harbor bacteria, viruses, and dirt. Cleaning these areas thoroughly before moving in helps prevent the spread of germs and promotes a safe, healthy environment for you and your family.

2. High-Traffic Areas: Managing Dust, Dirt, and Debris

High-traffic areas, such as hallways, entryways, and kitchens, tend to accumulate dust and dirt quickly. Cleaning these spaces thoroughly helps prevent debris from being tracked throughout the rest of the house, keeping your home cleaner overall.

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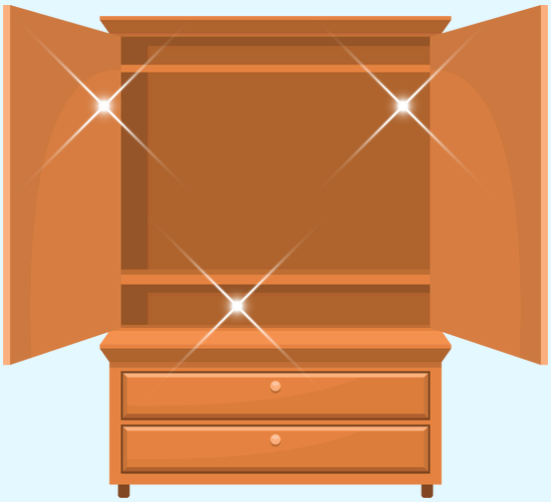
CHAPTER 5: CLEANING HIDDEN AND OVERLOOKED SPACES

Some areas in your home are often overlooked during regular cleaning but need special attention when you move in.

These include:

- **Behind appliances:** Move the fridge, stove, and washer/dryer to clean behind and underneath them.
- **Inside cabinets and drawers:** Wipe down the interiors to remove dust and debris.
- **Vents and air filters:** Replace or clean air filters and dust off vents.
- **Ceiling fans and light fixtures:** Remove dust and dirt from blades and fixtures.



These hidden spaces can harbor dust, allergens, and grime, so a thorough cleaning will help you create a healthy living environment from day one.

CHAPTER 6: ECO-FRIENDLY CLEANING TIPS FOR A FRESH START

Starting fresh in a new home is the perfect time to adopt eco-friendly cleaning habits. In this chapter, we'll provide tips for using natural, non-toxic cleaning solutions that are safe for your family and the environment. Learn how simple ingredients like vinegar, baking soda, and essential oils can be used to clean and sanitize every corner of your new home without harsh chemicals.

1. The Benefits of Eco-Friendly Cleaning

Eco-friendly cleaning solutions offer a range of benefits that extend beyond keeping surfaces clean. They are often non-toxic, biodegradable, and free from harmful chemicals, making them safer for children, pets, and anyone with sensitivities or allergies. Eco-friendly methods also help reduce environmental pollution and waste, making them a more sustainable choice. By incorporating these natural cleaning practices, you're not only creating a safer space for your family but also doing your part to protect the planet.

2. Essential Eco-Friendly Cleaning Ingredients and Their Uses

Creating eco-friendly cleaning solutions is easy with a few simple ingredients, most of which you may already have in your kitchen. Here are some key natural ingredients and their effective uses:

- **Vinegar:** An effective natural disinfectant, vinegar cuts through grease, dissolves mineral deposits, and neutralizes odors. Use white distilled vinegar for its cleaning power and affordability. While it's versatile, avoid using vinegar on natural stone surfaces like marble or granite, as its acidity can cause etching.

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CHAPTER 6: ECO-FRIENDLY CLEANING TIPS FOR A FRESH START

- **Baking Soda:** Known for its mild abrasive properties, baking soda is excellent for scrubbing surfaces, removing stains, and deodorizing. It's ideal for sinks, bathtubs, and countertops. Baking soda also works well when mixed with vinegar to create a fizzing reaction that helps lift grime from surfaces.

- **Lemon Juice:** Naturally antibacterial and fragrant, lemon juice is effective for cutting through grease, removing stains, and adding a fresh scent. It can be used to sanitize cutting boards, polish metal surfaces, and add a fresh scent to homemade cleaning solutions.

3. DIY Eco-Friendly Cleaning Recipes for Your New Home

These simple, eco-friendly cleaning recipes are safe, effective, and versatile, helping you tackle every area of your new home without the need for harsh chemicals.

All-Purpose Cleaner:

- Ingredients: 1 cup water, 1 cup vinegar, a few drops of lemon essential oil
- Instructions: Mix the ingredients in a spray bottle and shake well. Use on countertops, sinks, and other hard surfaces. Avoid using on natural stone, as vinegar can damage it.

Glass and Mirror Cleaner:

- Ingredients: 1 cup water, 1 cup vinegar, a few drops of essential oil (optional for fragrance)
- Instructions: Combine in a spray bottle and shake. Spray onto glass surfaces and wipe with a microfiber cloth for a streak-free finish.

Natural Scrub for Bathrooms and Kitchens:

- Ingredients: 1/2 cup baking soda, enough Castile soap to form a paste
- Instructions: Mix baking soda with a small amount of Castile soap to create a thick paste. Apply with a sponge or cloth to scrub sinks, bathtubs, and tile grout. Rinse with water for a clean shine.

CHAPTER 7: SETTING UP A REGULAR CLEANING ROUTINE POST-MOVE

Once you've completed your move-in deep clean, it's important to establish a regular cleaning routine to keep your new home looking its best. This chapter outlines a simple weekly and monthly cleaning schedule to help you stay organized and maintain your space with minimal effort.

Post-Move Cleaning Schedule:

- **Daily Tasks:** Wipe down countertops, sweep floors, and tidy up common areas.
- **Weekly Tasks:** Vacuum or mop, clean bathrooms, and dust surfaces.
- **Monthly Tasks:** Clean windows, wipe baseboards, and deep clean appliances.

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CHAPTER 8: WHEN TO CALL IN PROFESSIONAL HELP

Sometimes, the cleaning tasks required for a move-in can be overwhelming, especially after the stress of moving. This chapter discusses when to consider hiring a professional cleaning service, like Onix Cleaning Services, to handle the move-in cleaning process for you. Professional cleaners can ensure every nook and cranny is spotless, giving you more time to focus on unpacking and personalizing your new home.

1. Benefits of Hiring a Professional Cleaning Service

- Hiring a professional cleaning service offers several key advantages, making it an ideal option when you're short on time, energy, or simply want peace of mind that your home is spotless

2. When to Consider Professional Help

- There are certain scenarios where hiring a professional cleaning service is especially beneficial. Here are some common situations where bringing in the pros can make a big difference:
  - Post-Construction or Renovation Work
  - Limited Time for Move-In Preparations
  - Large Homes or Multi-Level Spaces
  - Sensitivity to Allergens or Dust

3. What to Expect from a Professional Move-In Cleaning Service

- A professional move-in clean is more thorough than a standard cleaning session and is designed to prepare every part of your home for comfortable living.

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CONCLUSION: ENJOYING A CLEAN, FRESH START IN YOUR NEW HOME

A clean home sets the tone for a fresh start in your new space. By following this move-in cleaning checklist, you'll be able to ensure every room is spotless, welcoming, and ready for you to make it your own. Now that your home is clean and organized, you can focus on the excitement of decorating, unpacking, and settling into your new life.

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ABOUT ONIX CLEANING SERVICES

Onix Cleaning Services is a professional cleaning company owned by **Maria De Souza** proudly serving the Greater Boston area, with a special focus on Suffolk County, South Boston, Downtown, and the Seaport District. With a reputation for excellence, Onix Cleaning Services specializes in providing high-quality, customized cleaning solutions for busy professionals, young families, retirees, and pet owners alike.

Dedicated to making life easier for their clients, Onix Cleaning Services offers a wide range of residential and commercial cleaning options, from regular maintenance cleans to deep cleaning sessions, using eco-friendly and non-toxic products to ensure a safe, healthy environment for everyone. With years of experience and a commitment to customer satisfaction, Onix Cleaning Services helps families reclaim their time and peace of mind by delivering spotless, organized spaces that allow them to focus on what really matters.

With Onix Cleaning Services, you can spend less time cleaning and more time living.

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READY TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HOME?

Now that you have the tools, it’s time to take action. Start by implementing just one or two of the tips in this guide and build from there. You’ll be amazed at how much more manageable your home feels in just a few days. Remember, it’s about progress, not perfection. Begin today, and create a home that works for you and your family!

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