

Preventative Maintenance Checklist for Apartments

Being a renter may get you off the hook for most maintenance costs, but that doesn't mean you're free and clear of any burden on your wallet. Throughout your lease period, keep up with preventative maintenance and use our checklist to make sure you're walking away from your apartment with the bulk of your deposit.

Check your lease to see if you're responsible for these tasks or others:

- Replacing light bulbs
- Replacing air filters
- Cleaning the dryer vent
- Maintaining specific appliances
- Arranging for trash removal
- Mowing the lawn

Property Inspection Checklist

Walls and Paint

- Fill all nail holes and patch larger holes in your drywall.
- Return all walls or cabinetry to their original state.

Porches and Decks

- Check for rot on the banisters, railings and spindles.
- Check for loose wood on the handrails or base structure.
- Communicate any damage with your landlord.

Doors

- Make sure your hinges are in working condition.
- Confirm the chain lock is secured to the door and wall.
- Ensure the door sweeps are not broken or worn out.
- Make sure the deadbolt works properly.

Windows

- Immediately report any cracks or chips to the landlord.
- Keep your landlord aware of fogged windows.
- Periodically check the screens for damage or tampering.

Floors and Carpets

- Clean up spills, pet accidents and any stains.
- Vacuum regularly. This will make a big difference!
- Use rugs in high-traffic areas to protect from excessive wear.
- Repair light scratches on wooden floors.

Ovens and Refrigerators

- Deep-clean your oven.
- Periodically give your fridge and freezer a thorough cleaning.
- Defrost the freezer.

Garbage Disposal

Avoid putting the following down the disposal:

- Potato peels
- Asparagus and celery
- Bones
- Fruit seeds and pits
- Egg shells
- Grease
- Coffee grounds

Other garbage disposal maintenance tips:

- Always run the water at full stream, and let it run for a few seconds after you turn the disposal off.
- To eliminate odors, grind a lemon one quarter at a time.
- To sharpen the blades, grind a few small ice cubes.

Cabinets and Counters

- Periodically check for inexplicable dampness.
- Periodically check for leaks under the sink.
- Disinfect your cabinets every couple of months.
- Avoid hanging damp towels over cabinet doors.

Miscellaneous Apartment Maintenance Tasks

- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- When you're in the process of moving out, take your sliding screen door off the rollers to avoid damaging it as you're hauling your belongings out the door.
- If there is a leak from your toilet or another appliance, turn off the water. Then let your leasing office know about the problem.
- Periodically check light switches you don't use very often to confirm they are in proper working order.

A security deposit is usually no small chunk of change. However, you can recover most of it, if not all of it, if you consistently stay in contact with your leasing office and properly maintain your apartment. Mr. Handyman professionals have all the tools and expertise necessary to help you cross off tasks on your apartment maintenance checklist. No job is too big or too small. Simply [request service online](#) or call us at 877-685-1377.

