

Bathroom Deep-Cleaning Checklist

Work from dry work to wet work, from high surfaces to low ones, and keep the toilet tools apart from everything else.

Before you start

Two minutes of looking before you fill a bucket decides which tool and which product the room needs.

- ☐ Decide what this clean needs: an ordinary week of splashes and hair, a neglected shower, a shared bathroom or a move-in.
- ☐ Clear the floor and vanity, and put medicines, makeup, electric shavers and loose bottles somewhere dry and safe.
- ☐ Identify anything that needs special care: natural stone, unsealed grout, old caulk, painted cabinets and acrylic tubs.
- ☐ When you do not know what a surface is, use the mildest suitable option first in a small, tucked-away area.
- ☐ Open the window if the weather allows, or run the bathroom fan.
- ☐ Read the product label, including the surface directions and any warnings. Never mix products in a bottle, bucket or toilet bowl.

The cleaning kit

A few tools that keep dirty jobs separate. Put them in a bin or tote before you begin.

- ☐ Microfibre cloths in two or three colours: one colour for the toilet area, another for the sink, counter and mirror.
- ☐ A non-scratch sponge and a soft brush, each checked against the surface first.
- ☐ A toilet brush that is used only for the bowl, left to drip-dry in its holder after use.
- ☐ A mild all-purpose cleaner, used according to its label.
- ☐ A product intended for mineral deposits, if needed, confirmed compatible with your glass, tile, chrome or stone.
- ☐ A bucket, small basin or mop. Change the water when it has turned grey.
- ☐ A squeegee, old towel or dry cloth for shower glass, chrome and the floor edge.

The deep-clean sequence

Begin with dry tasks, follow the label for any waiting time, and keep going in one direction around the room.

- ☐ Step 1. Remove clutter and dry debris: put away personal items, empty the bin, collect hair and dust the higher ledges before any liquid cleaner is used.
- ☐ Step 2. Treat the shower or tub first: apply the chosen product, then leave it for the label-directed time while you work elsewhere.
- ☐ Step 3. Clean the vanity and sink: wipe the counter, basin, tap, handles, backsplash and cabinet pulls. Rinse or replace the cloth as needed.
- ☐ Step 4. Clean the mirror and glass carefully: use a clean cloth and a product appropriate for glass, and check it from the doorway for streaks.
- ☐ Step 5. Scrub the shower or tub: work one manageable area at a time and rinse residue away. Use light pressure first.
- ☐ Step 6. Detail tile edges and grout: brush gently along the joints, corners, soap dish, shower track and hardware.
- ☐ Step 7. Clean the toilet last among fixtures: the bowl first, then the outside from the cleanest area to the dirtiest.
- ☐ Step 8. Wipe touchpoints: the door handle, light switch, cabinet pulls and tap handles, with a fresh part of a cloth or a new cloth.
- ☐ Step 9. Clean from the far corner towards the door: mop or wipe the floor after every higher surface is finished.
- ☐ Step 10. Reset the room: put back only what belongs there, hang the bath mat to dry and rinse the tools.

Shower, tub and tile, by material

Soap film, body oils, hair products and minerals do not all behave the same way.

- ☐ Rinse loose soil away first, then use a compatible product and tool.
- ☐ For shower glass, start with a small area: some glass has a protective coating.
- ☐ Wipe or squeegee from top to bottom, and dry the edge of the track where water tends to sit.
- ☐ Work tile in short sections, and rinse rather than spreading the same loosened film across it.
- ☐ If staining does not lift with a compatible cleaner, stop before damaging the grout or caulk.
- ☐ Caulk is a boundary material, not a scrub pad. If it is cracked, pulling away or discoloured, note it for repair.

The toilet, in its own order

Cleaning the toilet last protects the rest of your work.

- ☐ Keep the bowl brush, toilet cloth and any toilet-specific product away from the vanity, shower and floor tools.
- ☐ Work from the tank and lid towards the lower areas, changing to a clean side of the cloth as you go.
- ☐ Do not miss the hinge covers, the flush control, the seat underside, the rim and the floor around the base.
- ☐ Do not pour cleaners into the cistern or mix products in the bowl.
- ☐ Rinse and store the brush as its holder is designed, and wash your hands.

Floors, fabric and the last look

The floor goes last because everything else has had a chance to fall on it.

- ☐ Vacuum or pick up loose debris before using water, and use only as much water as the flooring can handle.
- ☐ Check the base of the vanity, the side of the toilet, the bath mat outline and the edge beside the tub.
- ☐ Wash bath mats and hand towels according to their care labels, and let the mat dry before it goes back down.
- ☐ Take one final look from the doorway for missed drips, a streak on the mirror or a line of dust behind the door.

Keep the deep clean from becoming a crisis again

The best maintenance habit is the one your household will actually repeat.

- ☐ Give the sink a quick wipe after a busy morning.
- ☐ Do a squeegee pass after a shower.
- ☐ Do a weekly floor check.
- ☐ Give each recurring task a home: a cloth near the vanity, the squeegee where it can drip dry, a bin that is easy to empty.
- ☐ Run the fan while the room is in use. Cleaning cannot repair a ventilation or plumbing problem.
- ☐ For guests, a move or a busy season, do the visible priorities first: toilet exterior, sink, mirror, shower glass, floor and fresh towels.