

Move-out photo checklist

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Before you start

- Use your phone's camera app. No screenshots, and don't send photos through chat apps (that can strip the date).
- Phone date and time set automatically.
- All lights on, blinds open, lens clean.
- Move-out: after cleaning and moving out, right before handing back keys.

Every room

- Wide shot from the doorway.
- Each wall, from the middle of the room.
- The floor, corners and in front of doorways.
- Close-ups of anything worn or damaged, with a coin or pen for scale.
- Note where you stood; use the same spots at move-out.

Kitchen

- Inside oven, stovetop
- Inside fridge and freezer
- Under the sink
- Counters, cabinet doors, inside drawers

Bathroom

- Tub or shower, grout and caulk
- Toilet and floor around it
- Sink, vanity, mirror
- Exhaust fan

Bedrooms and living areas

- Carpet
- Walls near bed and couch
- Closet doors and shelves
- Window sills and screens

Everywhere

- Blinds
- Light fixtures

- Outlets and switch plates
- Doors, handles, baseboards
- Smoke detectors

Outside, storage, utilities

- Balcony or patio, parking, storage, mailbox
- Meter readings and thermostat
- All keys, fobs and remotes laid out together

After you leave

- Back up the original photos the same day.
- Give a forwarding address in writing; keep a copy.
- Keep the lease, every landlord message, any move-in checklist.
- Calendar the deadline (California: 21 days after move-out).

Landlord kept part of your deposit? DepositThis by PaperChore turns these photos, your lease, messages and the landlord's letter into a dated evidence packet: deposit.paperchore.com

We organize your files. We're not a law firm, and this isn't legal advice. This checklist is general information, not legal advice.