

KEEPING YOUR HOME CLEAN

It's easy for messes to build up fast, and for your house to quickly become messy and unmanageable. Doing a little bit of cleaning each day can help keep your home clean. Use these tips along with the housekeeping checklist to keep your home in good shape. Landlords prefer tenants who keep their home clean as it prevents problems down the road like pests, mold and smells.

MOLD AND PESTS

Signs of mold

- Dark-colored spots on surfaces exposed to moisture
- Musty or mildew smells
- Allergy-like symptoms

Ways to prevent mold growth

- Use the fan in your bathroom when showering or open a window to reduce moisture
- Lay out wet clothes or other items so they fully dry out
 - Wet items can trigger mold growth when the moisture evaporates and settles on the ceiling
- Have some air flow in your house during the day by cracking open a window

Ways to prevent ants, gnats and other bugs

- Keep food (except fruit) stored in airtight bags or containers
- Don't let fruit like bananas go overripe – this will attract gnats
- Try to keep up with dirty dishes to prevent ants and cockroaches
- Wipe down counters, stovetop and other food surfaces regularly
- To kill ants: TERRO is an ant poison found at many hardware stores
- To kill gnats: Put a couple spoonfuls of apple cider vinegar and a couple drops of liquid dish soap in a container. Stretch a piece of saran wrap over the top of the container and poke a couple holes over the surface.

LAUNDRY

Read the laundry care symbols on each piece of clothing to find out if it needs to be washed in a specific way. Here are some common laundry symbols and their meanings.



Image source: The Maids Blog, www.maids.com/blog/how-to-read-laundry-symbols/

- An X in the symbol generally means “do not”
- Most articles of clothing can go in the washer with cold water, but some may need to be washed in hot or warm water, or only by hand. Below is how to wash some common materials.

Cotton

- Washing
 - Colored cotton clothing – cold water is best, it will help prevent colors from fading
 - Bedding, bath towels and kitchen towels – hot water will remove bacteria and body soil
 - Cycle type normal is best
 - For delicate items, use the gentle cycle
- Drying
 - Over-drying cotton can cause shrinkage and wrinkling
 - Use a lower temperature
 - Sheets and towels can be dried at a higher temperature
 - Cotton items can also be dried on a clothesline or drying rack

Synthetic Fabric

- Includes acetate, acrylic, nylon, olefin, polyester, rayon, vinyl (think activewear, swimsuits, etc)
- Washing
 - For activewear that smells, putting in a capful of vinegar can help get rid of the odor
 - Use cool water on a delicate or normal cycle
- Drying
 - It's best to let synthetics air dry by hanging them on a drying rack or clothesline, as the dryer's high heat will reduce elasticity and moisture-wicking properties

Wool

- Wash with cold water
- Do not put in the dryer, it will shrink. Instead, lay flat or on a drying rack to dry.