

# Post-Construction Cleaning Checklist

For Triangle Homeowners — Raleigh, Cary, Durham, Holly Springs, Morrisville

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cleanup Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cleaner / Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact / Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION 1: Pre-Cleaning Checklist — Before You Start

Complete this section before any cleaning crew arrives or before starting your own cleanup. Skipping these steps means re-doing work you already paid for.

- Large construction debris, cardboard, and packaging removed from all rooms
- Protective coverings (plastic sheeting, painter's tape, drop cloths) removed
- Waited 24 to 48 hours after the final paint coat before beginning cleaning
- All appliance stickers and window manufacturer labels removed or noted for removal
- Locations of paint splatters on floors, baseboards, and fixtures noted
- HVAC system switched OFF before cleaning begins
- Confirmed cleaning crew has HEPA-rated vacuum equipment (not a standard vacuum)

**Warning:** Drywall dust contains crystalline silica. A standard household vacuum does not capture fine silica particles — it redistributes them into the air, creating a health hazard. HEPA filtration captures 99.97% of particles. If drywall work occurred on your project, HEPA equipment is non-negotiable.

## SECTION 2: Phase-by-Phase Cleaning Checklist

### PHASE 1: Rough Clean (After Drywall, Before Paint)

Who handles this phase: General contractors and production builders. Not recommended as a DIY task — fine dust removal at this stage requires professional HEPA equipment and technique. See our cost guide for rough clean pricing in Raleigh.

- All large debris and construction waste removed from site
- All floors swept and HEPA-vacuumed including corners and thresholds
- Walls and ceilings HEPA-vacuumed from top to bottom

- Window frames, sills, and tracks vacuumed
- Protective coverings removed from fixtures, appliances, and cabinetry
- Surfaces prepped and confirmed clear for paint inspection

### **PHASE 2: Final Clean (After Paint, Before Move-In)**

Who handles this phase: Homeowners can manage minor single-room renovations. For whole-house construction, major drywall, or commercial projects, hire a professional. This is the most detailed phase and the one most homeowners mean when searching post-construction cleaning Raleigh NC.

#### **Kitchen**

- Appliances cleaned inside and out (refrigerator, oven, microwave, dishwasher)
- Cabinets cleaned interior and exterior including door edges and hinges
- Countertops wiped and polished, grout lines cleaned
- Sink and faucet polished, drain cleared of debris

#### **Bathrooms**

- Tubs and showers scrubbed including grout and caulk lines
- Sinks and vanities cleaned and polished
- Faucets, showerheads, and hardware polished streak-free
- Toilet cleaned inside and out including base and behind tank

#### **Whole House**

- All windows cleaned inside and out, frames and tracks wiped
- All stickers and adhesive residue removed from windows and appliances
- Floors deep-cleaned and polished (hardwood, tile, LVP as applicable)
- Light fixtures, ceiling fans, and switches polished and dust-free
- Baseboards, door frames, and window casings wiped
- All air vents and HVAC registers cleaned and cleared
- HVAC filter replaced with new filter

### **PHASE 3: Touch-Up Clean (After Final Walkthrough, Before Closing)**

Who handles this phase: Homeowners or a professional touch-up service. Typical duration: 2 to 4 hours for an average Triangle home. See our cost guide for touch-up clean pricing.

- Spot cleaning on any walls, floors, or surfaces re-dirtied during walkthrough
- Window edges, corners, and tracks detail-cleaned
- All fixtures and hardware given final polish
- Floors re-checked for scuff marks or grout haze

Final visual inspection completed room by room before closing

## SECTION 3: When to Hire vs. DIY

Situation	DIY or Hire?	Why
Minor renovation (under 1 room)	DIY	Small dust volume, manageable with care
Major construction (whole house)	HIRE	HEPA filtration required, fine silica dust
Drywall dust present	HIRE	Silica particles, serious health risk
Paint splatters on floors/fixtures	HIRE	Requires special solvents and technique
Adhesive residue (sticker glue, tape)	HIRE	Hardens over time, needs solvent cleaning
HVAC system and duct cleaning	HIRE	Professional equipment required
Window cleaning (inside and out)	DIY or Hire	DIY possible, but pros are faster and streak-free

*When in doubt, hire. The cost of re-cleaning after an inadequate DIY attempt typically exceeds the cost of hiring a professional from the start.*

## SECTION 4: Common Post-Construction Cleaning Mistakes to Avoid

### Using a regular vacuum on drywall dust

Standard vacuums lack HEPA filtration and blow fine silica particles back into the air. HEPA filters capture 99.97% of particles down to 0.3 microns. This is the single most common and costly mistake Triangle homeowners make.

### Skipping the rough clean phase

When the rough clean is skipped, drywall dust settles deeper into surfaces, joints, and flooring. By the time the final clean is attempted, the cleanup is two to three times more difficult and expensive.

### Cleaning before paint dries completely

Starting the final clean too early means smearing wet or semi-cured paint across floors and fixtures rather than removing it. Wait a full 24 to 48 hours after the last coat before scheduling the final clean.

### Not cleaning HVAC vents

Drywall and construction dust that enters the HVAC system circulates through the entire home for weeks after cleaning is complete. Vent cleaning and filter replacement are not optional steps on any construction job.

### Ignoring adhesive residue

Sticker glue from appliance labels, flooring underlayment tape, and window films hardens significantly over time. Residue left for more than a few weeks requires stronger solvents and more labor to remove, increasing cost.