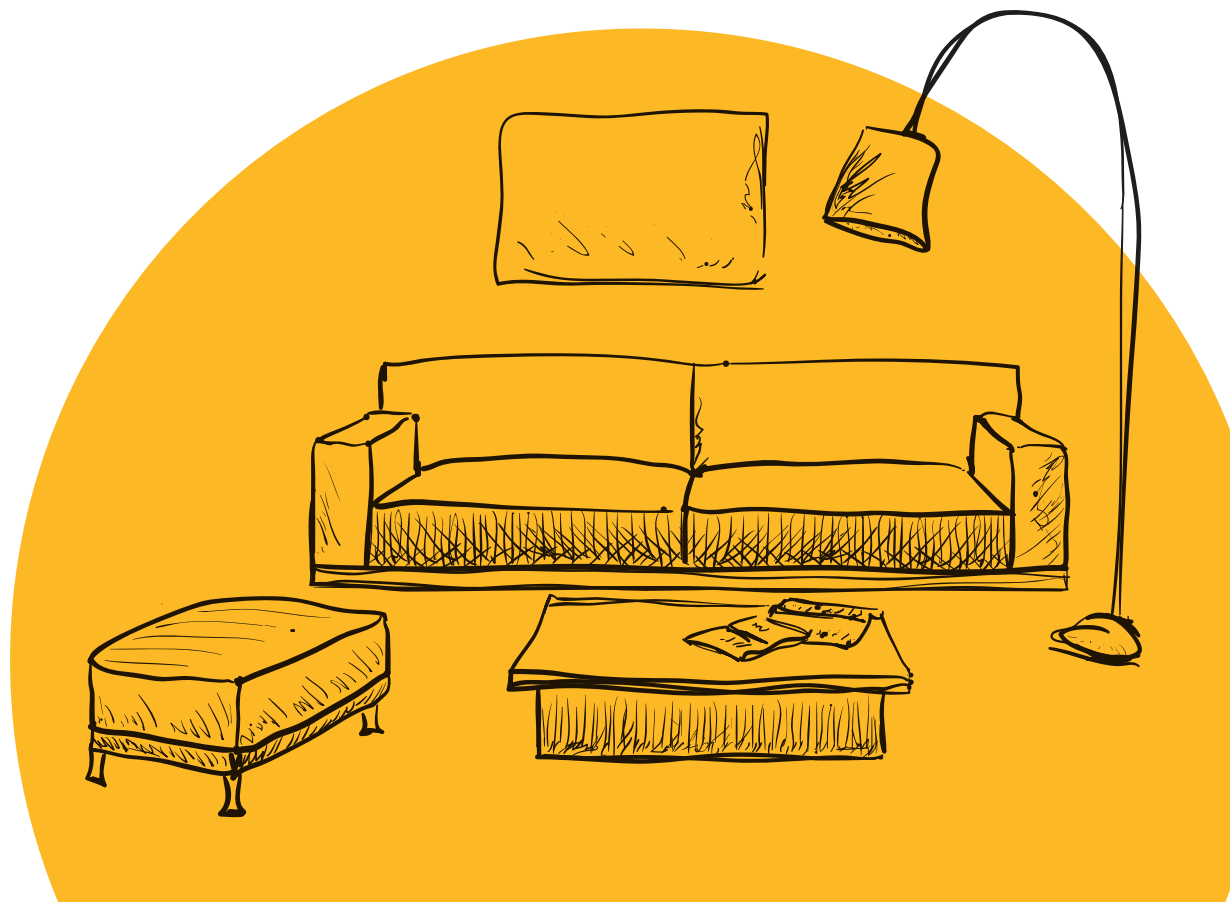


# Household Maintenance

When you take possession of your apartment, it should be clean and in good condition. And as long as you are a tenant, it is your responsibility to keep it that way. If work needs to be done because you have neglected or damaged the apartment, you may be billed for it.

Below, you will find some tips to properly tend your apartment and keep good relationships with both the landlord and your neighbours.



## Mould and Foul Smells

If there is too much humidity inside, it may cause damage to your apartment and furniture, including mould, condensation on windows and foul smells.

Here are some tips to avoid these unpleasant consequences:

- When taking a bath or shower, previously close door and activate the fan in order to evacuate the humidity outside. If there is no fan, open the window.
- Use the drying machine to dry your wash instead of hanging your clothes in the apartment.
- Turn the range hood on (above the stove) when cooking meals.
- Open the windows once in a while – even in winter – to refresh the air and evacuate humidity.
- Clear space in front of the heating units (the electric baseboards, radiators, etc.) by setting the furniture and other objects further away, so the heat will propagate better.
- Slightly move the furniture away from the exterior walls to ensure good air circulation. This will prevent mould growth.
- In the daytime, open the curtains and blinds to let in some fresh air.

## Clogged Pipes

To prevent pipes from clogging, do not flush any objects (diapers, sanitary pads, etc.) down the toilet.

If the toilet is clogged, use a plunger (found in hardware stores). Position the plunger at the bottom of the bowl and pump with the handle to unclog the toilet, and flush again.

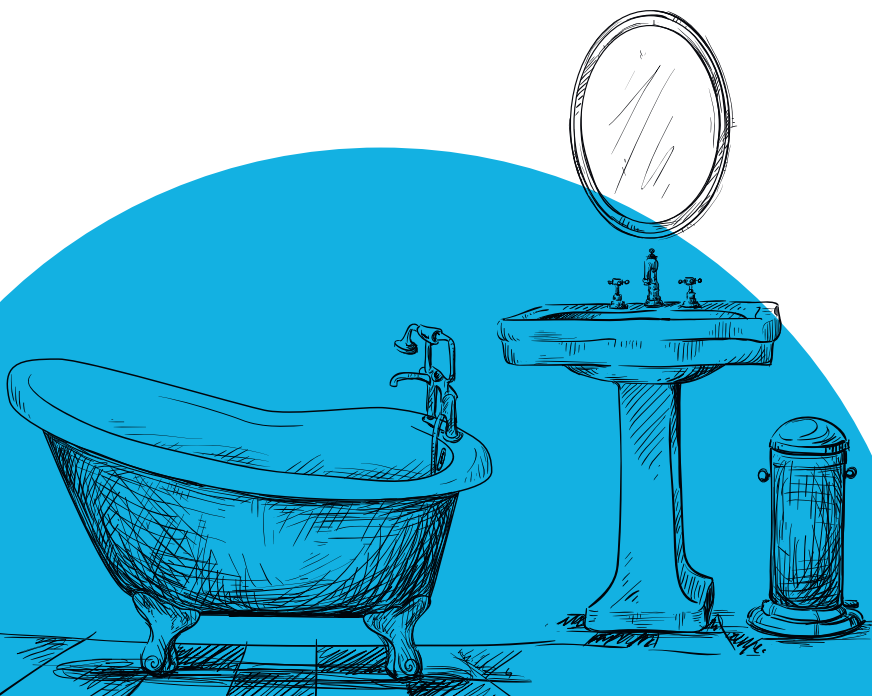
To prevent the clogging of pipes:

- Remove residues that can clog the tips: food, hair, soaps, etc.
- Once a month, mix 1/2 cup (125 ml) of vinegar and a tablespoon of baking soda, then pour it into the sink pipes, bath and shower.
- Check that there are no leaks in the pipes sinks.

## Kitchen

**Countertops:**

- Use a wood or plastic cutting board – do not cut food directly on the counters.
- Place hot pots on an insulating surface (wood board or other) as not to burn countertops or floors.
- Have a portable fire extinguisher handy at the entrance to the kitchen and learn how to use it.



## Floor Cleaning

Often enough, apartment floors are made of vinyl or wood. To avoid causing any damage to the surfaces:

- Sweep or vacuum often and pick up dust.
- If you spill something liquid, wipe it off right away.
- Clean the floors with cold water and soft soap made for this purpose (do not use dish soap).
- Do not pour water directly on the floor. Use a mop, or a wet but well-wrung cloth, which you will often rinse out.
- Remove excess water and make sure the floors dry well.

### A few precautions:

- Place a mat on the floor at the entrance of the apartment so less dust, sand and snow may come in.
- Remove your shoes when inside, especially high heels, which can damage floors.
- Install protective felt pads under the table and chair legs.

## Insects and Vermin

The presence of insects, mice and rats in your apartment must be taken very seriously, for their multiplication can render your apartment substandard and unsafe for the health of your family, your neighbours and yourself. To stop their proliferation, act promptly.

Notify your landlord as soon as you notice insects or vermin.

- Inspect and wipe the pantry and cupboards regularly.
- Clean food spills right away, especially when on carpets and furniture.
- Put trash in closed lid containers.
- Check the pipes for leaks.

## Keep an eye out for bed bugs!

Bedbugs are oval and brown, measure 5 to 8 mm and are wingless, which means that these insects cannot fly or jump.

Second-hand furniture, especially mattresses, sofas and other upholstered furniture may be colonized by bed bugs. Therefore, those must be thoroughly inspected and cleaned before they enter your home.

Refrain from taking objects lying outside or in the trash, as they might be infested.

### How to detect bedbugs?

Bedbugs feed on human blood. Itching and bite marks are warning signs, as well as the presence of black dots and spots on pillow cases and sheets. If you think you are infested by bedbugs, immediately contact an extermination service and your landlord. This will prevent further propagation to other apartments.

Source: OMHQ

