

Preparing your walls for check out

When it comes time to clear the property, you will need to take a look at the walls, door frames, doors, etc., for cleanliness. After living in the home for several months or longer, these areas get dirty, too, and require cleaning. Please be aware that cleaning companies rarely include cleaning of the walls in their bids and will not do this for you. By paying attention to these things while living in the home and cleaning throughout your tenancy, you can prevent this from being a big chore at the end of your tenancy.

For scuff marks, try Magic Eraser and wipe off the white residue it leaves behind using a damp rag or sponge. It may take several rinses with a clean rag to get rid of this white residue. Other areas that are dirty, i.e., walls, door frames, and doors, should be washed with mild soapy water using a detergent such as Dawn Dishwashing soap.

FILL ALL NAIL HOLES with spackle for check out. Once spackle is applied to the wall to cover a nail hole, allow it to dry and then wipe over the filled nail hole with a wet sponge to get rid of the excess spackle. If this is done properly, the filled nail hole will not be able to be seen from several feet away. Spot paint nail holes with matching paint (test an inconspicuous area to be certain you have a match if you find paint in the house as walls fade and paint deteriorates after sitting in a can for several years). If matching paint is not found in the house, Sherwin Williams can match the paint by taking a sliver of paint from the wall from an inconspicuous area such as near window trim close to a corner, for example. Most homes are painted with Sherwin Williams paint in this area so the Home Depot paints won't always be a good match. You will also have to pay attention to the sheen of the paint and not use semi gloss paint over walls painted with flat paint, etc. Spot painting of nail holes should be no larger than dime size to cover a nail hole. *See note below regarding walls that have been used as photo gallery walls, i.e., have numerous nail holes covering a large area.

DO NOT SPOT PAINT TO COVER SCUFF MARKS, FOOD DEBRIS, DIRT, HAND PRINTS, ANIMAL RUBS & DIRT, OR WALL DINGS, ETC. Rarely does spot painting match perfectly and you can see all these touch ups. Also, you cannot spot paint with a paint brush over walls that have been sprayed or painted with a roller. This will not blend and you will cause additional damage to the walls for which you will be responsible. If there is damage to a wall and repair and painting are required, paint the entire wall from ceiling to floor and corner to corner to repair this damage.

IF YOU HAVE CAUSED DAMAGE TO A WALL, i.e., holes, dings, put in mollies used to fasten shelving, TV's, or created a photo gallery wall with numerous nail holes, etc., contact a professional to properly repair the damage. If you attempt to do the repairs yourself and you do not properly sand the wall prior to painting or you leave it all spotty, you will be responsible for the cost of a painter to "fix" this damage.