



Film & TV Production

# Location Cleaning for Film & TV Productions

How professional cleaning supports film and television production logistics in Northern Ontario locations.

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## SECTION 01

# Film Production & Location Cleaning Basics



Location cleaning is a specialized support role in film and television production logistics.

Film and television productions operating in Northern Ontario — from major studio productions to independent films and commercial shoots — generate significant cleaning demands at every location. Location cleaning is a specialized service that supports production logistics, protects property owner relationships, and enables the efficient turnaround of shooting locations.

## The Role of Location Cleaning in Production

- Location access and relationships: Property owners grant location access based on trust that the space will be returned in its original condition. Professional cleaning is how productions fulfill that commitment.
- Production schedule support: A clean set is an efficient set. Cluttered, dirty holding areas and craft services zones create delays and friction in the production day.
- Health and safety compliance: Ontario film productions operating under union agreements (IATSE, Teamsters, ACTRA) are subject to workplace health and safety standards that include maintaining clean and safe working environments.
- Sustainability commitments: Major studio productions and many independent producers have Green Production commitments that include waste diversion, green cleaning products, and minimizing environmental impact at locations.

## SECTION 02

# Pre-Production Site Preparation



Pre-production cleaning establishes a baseline that the location can be returned to at wrap.

Before a production moves into a location, a pre-production baseline clean establishes the condition of the space and provides the standard to which it must be returned at wrap. This protects both the production and the property owner.

## Pre-Production Cleaning Scope

- 1 Document Baseline Condition**  
Photograph and document the condition of every room and surface before any production preparation begins. This record is essential for post-production wrap disputes.
- 2 Clean to Handover Standard**  
Clean the location to a standard that reflects its normal use — remove existing dust, clean windows, and ensure all surfaces are at baseline condition before production furniture and
- 3 Identify Sensitive Areas**  
Flag surfaces and features that require special protection or handling during production — antique finishes, fragile fixtures, specialty flooring.
- 4 Coordinate with Art Dept**  
Consult with the Art Department and Location Manager on which areas will receive production-installed coverings (floor protection, wall protection) and which areas will be

**5**

## Establish Cleaning Station

Set up a cleaning station with supplies for the daily cleaning crew — products, mops, vacuums, and waste receptacles positioned to support the production schedule.

## SECTION 03

# Daily Production Cleaning



Daily cleaning on a film set must happen without disrupting the shooting schedule.

Daily cleaning on an active film production must work around the shooting schedule — cleaning during meal breaks, company moves, and overnight periods without interfering with setup, lighting, or sound recording.

## Daily Production Cleaning Protocol

- Craft services area: clean during meal breaks — wipe all surfaces, restock, empty garbage
- Production office: empty waste, wipe surfaces, vacuum during non-shooting hours
- Washrooms: clean minimum twice daily — before crew call and at meal break
- Holding areas: clean at meal break and end of day
- Common circulation areas: sweep and mop at meal break and end of day
- Shooting set: coordinate with Set Decorator and Grip — never move or clean set dressing without explicit approval
- Parking area: clear catering waste, production debris, and cigarette butts at end of each day

### Never Touch the Set

The shooting set is the Set Decorator's domain. Cleaning crew must never move, clean, dust, or adjust set dressing, props, or set elements without explicit written instruction from the Set Decorator. A misplaced prop or altered surface can invalidate hours of footage.

## SECTION 04

# Craft Services & Catering Area Maintenance



Craft services and catering areas are the highest-use, highest-maintenance zones on any production.

The craft services table and catering area are the social hub of a film production — they are in constant use from pre-call to wrap. They generate significant food waste, packaging debris, and surface contamination that must be managed throughout the production day.

## Craft Services Cleaning Protocol

- Before crew call: set up clean surface, all equipment in place, fresh supplies
- Every 2 hours during production: wipe surfaces, remove empty packaging, refill supplies
- At meal breaks: full clean of all surfaces, empty all waste, clean coffee machines
- At end of day: full deep clean — all surfaces, equipment exterior, floor sweep and mop
- Weekly: deep clean appliances (coffee makers, microwaves, water coolers)
- Maintain waste diversion (recycling, compost, landfill) consistent with production's green commitments

### Green Production Requirements

Productions certified under the Green Film Certification program or operating under studio sustainability commitments require documented waste diversion. Cleaning contractors should maintain separation of recyclables, compostables, and landfill waste and provide diversion rate data on request.

## SECTION 05

# Holding Areas and Green Rooms



Holding areas serve background performers in large numbers — high turnover, high cleaning demand.

Background performer holding areas can accommodate hundreds of people across a shooting day. They require a level of cleaning intensity comparable to a stadium or event venue — frequent sweeps, constant washroom servicing, and ongoing waste management.

## Holding Area Cleaning Protocol

- Sweep all floor areas every 2 hours during active holding
- Mop floor at meal break and end of day
- Empty waste receptacles every 2 hours minimum
- Washrooms servicing holding area: check and clean every hour
- Tables and chairs: wipe after each meal service
- Food service area in holding: clean at every meal break
- End of day: full clean — all surfaces, floors, washrooms, remove all waste

## Green Room / Cast Trailer Area

- Clean before first cast arrival each morning

- ▣ Refresh at meal break — waste removal, surface wipe
- ▣ End of day: full clean
- ▣ Hair and makeup areas: sanitize all surfaces, counters, chair armrests
- ▣ Coordinate with Transportation for exterior trailer cleaning schedule

## SECTION 06

# Trailer and Mobile Unit Cleaning



Trailer and mobile unit cleaning is coordinated with the Transportation department.

Film productions use a fleet of mobile units — hair and makeup trailers, wardrobe trailers, production offices, and star wagons. Interior cleaning is coordinated with the Transportation department and must be scheduled around the production day.

## Trailer Cleaning Standards

- Hair and makeup trailers: High-contact surfaces (mirrors, chairs, countertops) must be sanitized between performers. Blood and fluid contamination from makeup effects requires proper disinfection.
- Wardrobe trailers: Sweep and mop floors daily. Hanging areas must be clear of loose fabric and debris. Ironing and steaming areas must be clean and safe.
- Star wagons (personal trailers): Clean per performer's specific instructions — coordinated with the talent's personal assistant. Privacy and discretion are required.
- Production office trailer: Standard office cleaning — vacuum, surface wipe, waste removal daily.
- Catering truck and honey wagon: Typically cleaned by the respective department. Cleaning contractor may assist if contracted.

## SECTION 07

# Post-Production Wrap Clean



The wrap clean is the most critical cleaning event in a production — it determines whether the location relationship continues.

The wrap clean is the final cleaning of a location after the production has struck (removed) all equipment, furniture, set dressing, and materials. It must restore the location to the condition documented in the pre-production baseline — or better.

## Wrap Clean Sequence

1

### Confirm Strike is Complete

Do not begin cleaning until the Art Department and Grip/Electric confirm all production materials have been removed. Cleaning around remaining equipment creates conflicts.

2

### Remove All Production Waste

All production waste — catering debris, packaging, expendables, water bottles — must be removed before cleaning begins.

3

### Remove Floor Protection

Carefully remove any floor protection materials (Ram Board, plastic sheeting) and inspect the floor surface beneath for damage.

4

### Clean Top to Bottom

Ceiling fans, light fixtures, and high surfaces first. Then walls and surfaces. Then floors last — never clean floors before overhead surfaces are addressed.

5

### Address Location-Specific Items

Focus on areas most impacted by production activity: cables on floors (depressions), tape residue on walls, scuffs from equipment movement.

6

### Final Walk with Location Rep

Walk the location with the Location Manager or property owner representative, using the pre-production baseline photographs as the reference. Obtain sign-off on restored condition.

SECTION 08

# Location Restoration Standards



Location restoration returns the property to pre-production condition — the foundation of ongoing location relationships.

Location restoration is distinct from general cleaning. It specifically addresses the marks, residue, and alterations left by film production activity — and must restore each surface to its pre-production condition.

## Common Production Damage and Remediation

Remediation

Tape adhesive remover + surface cleaner

Professional floor restoration as needed

Magic eraser + touch-up paint (coordinated with owner)

Deep mop or carpet extract

Assess and report to Location Manager

## SECTION 09

# Working with Production Coordinators



The Production Coordinator is the cleaning contractor's primary point of contact on a film production.

On a film production, the cleaning contractor works within the production's established hierarchy. The Production Coordinator (PC) is typically the primary point of contact for scheduling, access, and logistics. The Location Manager manages the property owner relationship.

## Working Effectively with Production

- Get the schedule in advance: Request a daily shooting schedule (call sheet) as soon as it is released — typically 18–24 hours in advance. This allows you to plan cleaning around the production day.
- Confirm access windows: Never assume access to a location area. Confirm with the PC which areas are available and when — especially around active shooting.
- Communicate issues immediately: If you discover damage, a plumbing issue, or another problem at the location, contact the Location Manager immediately. Document with photos.
- Match the production's tempo: Film productions move fast. A cleaning crew that creates delays or requires repeated instruction is a liability. Show up ready, work efficiently, and disappear when your work is done.

## SECTION 10

# Building a Cleaning Budget Into Your Production

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Location cleaning is a line item in the production budget — not an afterthought.

Many independent productions underbudget or overlook location cleaning until a property owner dispute or a location closeout problem forces the issue. Building cleaning into the budget from the start is both economical and professional.

## Location Cleaning Budget Components

- Pre-production baseline clean: One-time cost at the start of the location hold period. Budget as a deep clean of the total square footage.
- Daily cleaning: A daily rate for on-call cleaning during production. Include craft services, washrooms, holding areas, and production office.
- Wrap clean: A separate line item from daily cleaning — typically 1.5–2× the cost of the pre-production clean, as the location will have sustained higher soil levels than normal use.
- Contingency for restoration: Budget 10–15% of the total cleaning budget as a contingency for location restoration items not anticipated in pre-production.

### Binx Film & TV Production Services

Binx Professional Cleaning has experience supporting film and television productions in Northern Ontario. We understand production timelines, location protocols, and Green Production requirements. Call (705) 845-0998 or visit [binx.ca](http://binx.ca) to discuss your production's needs.

ABOUT BINX

# Why Clients Trust Binx Professional Cleaning

\$	W	Q	G
\$5M	WSIB	Quality	100%
Liability Insurance	Full Coverage	Audit Verified	Green Certified

Binx Professional Cleaning is a locally owned and operated cleaning company serving North Bay, Sudbury, and surrounding communities in Northern Ontario. With 70+ trained cleaning professionals, we deliver consistent, verified, and insured cleaning services to over 200 commercial and residential clients every week.

We are proud partners of Cleaning for a Reason, providing free cleaning services to cancer patients in our community. We use 100% green-certified Green Cleaning Chemical products across every account. Every cleaning visit is verified through our Quality Audit inspection platform — so you never have to wonder whether the work was done.



## Film & TV Location Cleaning — Northern Ontario

Binx Professional Cleaning provides pre-production, daily, and wrap cleaning services for film and television productions in Northern Ontario. Flexible scheduling, production-aware crew. Call (705) 845-0998 or visit [binx.ca](http://binx.ca).

Get a Free Quote — [binx.ca/contact](http://binx.ca/contact)

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