



Residential Renovation

Post-Renovation Cleaning Checklist for Homeowners

Room-by-room guide to safely cleaning your home after construction, renovation, or major repair work.

3 Phases **12+ Sun** **North Bay & Sudbur**

rough, detail & final

covered room by room

Binx service area

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SECTION 01

Why Post-Reno Cleaning Is Different



Construction dust is ultra-fine and settles on every surface — including inside cabinets and ductwork.

A renovation transforms your home — but it also fills it with drywall dust, silica particles, adhesive residue, caulking overspray, paint splatter, and construction debris. Post-renovation cleaning is fundamentally different from routine house cleaning.

What Makes Reno Dust Dangerous

- Silica dust: Cutting concrete, tile, and brick releases crystalline silica. Inhalation causes respiratory inflammation — use N95 masks and ventilate before cleaning.
- Drywall compound dust: Extremely fine particles stay airborne for hours and coat every surface including inside closets, cabinets, and HVAC ducts.
- VOCs from paint and adhesives: New paint, flooring adhesive, and caulking off-gas volatile organic compounds for days to weeks after application.
- Lead and asbestos (older homes): Renovations in homes built before 1980 may disturb lead paint or asbestos. Do not dry-sweep or vacuum without HEPA filtration. Consult an abatement professional if in doubt.

Key Insight

Post-renovation cleaning is not faster than regular cleaning — it is slower, more systematic, and requires working top-to-bottom in a specific sequence. Skipping steps redistributes dust rather than removing it.

SECTION 02

Safety Before You Start



Protect yourself with proper PPE before entering a freshly renovated space.

Before you begin any post-renovation cleaning, establish a safe working environment. Contractors may leave behind hazardous materials, unstable surfaces, and sharp debris.

Personal Protective Equipment

- ❑ N95 or P100 respirator (not a dust mask)
- ❑ Safety glasses or goggles
- ❑ Nitrile gloves — heavy duty
- ❑ Closed-toe shoes with puncture-resistant soles
- ❑ Long sleeves and pants — drywall dust irritates skin

Site Safety Checks

- ❑ Confirm all electrical work is complete and panels are covered
- ❑ Verify all flooring transitions are secure — no trip hazards
- ❑ Check that scaffolding and ladders have been removed or are stable
- ❑ Open windows and run fans for 30 minutes before starting — ventilate VOCs

Identify and bag any sharp debris (nails, screws, broken tile)

HVAC First

Turn off your HVAC system before cleaning. Drywall dust in the return air will coat your ducts and furnace. After cleaning, replace all air filters and consider having ducts professionally cleaned.

SECTION 03

Phase 1 – Rough Clean



The rough clean removes bulk debris before fine dust is addressed.

The three-phase approach ensures dust and debris are systematically removed rather than redistributed. Phase 1 targets bulk debris and loose construction material.

Phase 1 Tasks – Work Top to Bottom

- 1 Bulk Debris Removal**
Remove all construction debris, off-cuts, packaging, and waste materials from every room.
- 2 Knock Down Ceiling Dust**
Sweep ceilings and walls with a long-handled duster or microfibre mop to knock down accumulated dust.
- 3 HEPA Vacuum All Surfaces**
Vacuum all surfaces using a HEPA vacuum — never use a standard shop vac as it recirculates fine particles.
- 4 Sweep Floors**
Sweep floors and collect all loose debris — do not mop yet.

5

Remove Protective Covers

Remove protective coverings (plastic sheeting, cardboard floor protection) carefully to avoid spreading trapped dust.

6

Remove All Debris

Bag all debris and remove from the building before proceeding to Phase 2.

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SECTION 04

Phase 2 – Detail Clean



Detail cleaning addresses every surface including inside cabinets, behind appliances, and inside ducts.

Phase 2 is the most time-consuming phase. Every surface that was exposed during the renovation must be wiped or vacuumed – including surfaces that appear clean.

Phase 2 Surface Sequence

- 1** **Fixtures & Fans**
Light fixtures, ceiling fans, and smoke detectors – wipe with damp microfibre.
- 2** **Cabinet Interiors**
Cabinet interiors and drawer boxes – vacuum then wipe with a damp cloth.
- 3** **Window Frames & Tracks**
Window frames, sills, and tracks – drywall dust accumulates heavily in tracks.
- 4** **Door Frames & Baseboards**
Door frames, door hardware, and baseboards – wipe all surfaces.

5

Wall Wipe-Down

Wall surfaces — wipe visible dust with a barely damp cloth (do not soak drywall).

6

Appliances

Appliances — clean tops, sides, and pull out to clean behind.

7

Floors

All floor surfaces — damp mop hard floors, vacuum carpet with HEPA machine.

Don't Skip Inside Cabinets

New kitchen and bathroom cabinets installed during renovation trap drywall dust inside every cabinet box and drawer. Wipe each interior surface with a barely damp microfibre cloth before loading dishes, food, or linens.

SECTION 05

Phase 3 – Final Polish



Final polish brings all surfaces to move-in ready condition.

Phase 3 is the finishing pass that brings your renovated space to move-in ready condition. It addresses glass, mirrors, stainless steel, hardware, and final floor treatment.

Phase 3 Final Polish Checklist

- All windows – clean both sides, removing construction adhesive with a razor scraper
- Mirrors and glass shower doors
- Stainless steel appliances – wipe with grain using stainless cleaner
- Plumbing fixtures – chrome and brushed nickel faucets, showerheads, towel bars
- Door hardware – knobs, levers, hinges
- Light switch plates and outlet covers
- Hardwood or LVP floors – buff or polish according to manufacturer spec
- Tile grout – spot clean any grout haze left from installation
- Final vacuum of all carpets with HEPA machine

SECTION 06

Room-by-Room Checklist

Use this room-by-room checklist to track your progress. Check off each item as you complete it — do not mark a room done until every item is addressed.

Kitchen

- Cabinet interiors and drawer boxes vacuumed and wiped
- Countertops — cleaned and dried
- Backsplash — grouted areas cleaned of haze
- Sink and faucet polished
- Appliances cleaned inside and out
- Range hood filter replaced or cleaned
- Floor mopped

Bathrooms

- Toilet cleaned inside, outside, and behind
- Vanity and medicine cabinet wiped inside and out
- Shower/tub — grout haze removed, fixtures polished
- Mirror cleaned
- Exhaust fan vacuumed
- Floor mopped

SECTION 07

Floors & Hard Surfaces



Post-reno floor care requires different techniques for each surface type.

Post-renovation floor cleaning requires matching the cleaning method to the floor type. Using the wrong product or technique on new floors can void the manufacturer warranty.

Floor Type Quick Reference

Phase 2

Barely damp mop

Damp mop — no steam

Wet mop + degreaser

HEPA vacuum again

Wet scrub

Never Steam Mop New Hardwood

Steam mops force moisture into the wood grain and can cause cupping, warping, and finish failure on hardwood and engineered wood floors. Use a barely damp microfibre mop and dry immediately.

SECTION 08

Windows, Glass & Fixtures

Windows and mirrors installed during renovation often have construction adhesive, paint overspray, caulking residue, and drywall compound on the glass. Standard window cleaner alone will not remove these.

Construction Residue Removal

- 1 Soak & Soften**
Soak a cloth with warm water and press against adhesive or compound residue for 2–3 minutes to soften it.
- 2 Scrape Residue**
Use a new single-edge razor blade held at 30 degrees to carefully scrape softened residue — never use on coated or tempered glass.
- 3 Apply Cleaner**
Apply a commercial glass cleaner or a 50/50 vinegar and water solution.
- 4 Wipe Clean**
Wipe with a lint-free microfibre cloth in an S-pattern from top to bottom.
- 5 Buff Dry**
Buff dry with a second dry microfibre cloth.
- 6 Final Check**
Check in natural light at an angle — any remaining haze indicates residue that needs another pass.

Protect New Caulking

New silicone and latex caulking around windows takes 24–48 hours to fully cure. Do not apply cleaning solutions directly to fresh caulking. Wipe glass up to the bead without touching it until fully cured.

SECTION 09

HVAC & Air Quality

Drywall dust, insulation fibres, and sawdust infiltrate HVAC systems during renovation even when vents are covered. Restoring indoor air quality after a renovation requires systematic HVAC attention.

Post-Renovation HVAC Checklist

- ☐ Replace all air filters — including returns — after completing rough clean
- ☐ Vacuum all supply and return vent covers
- ☐ Wipe vent grilles with a damp cloth
- ☐ Run system on fan-only for 30 minutes with a fresh filter, then replace filter again
- ☐ Consider professional duct cleaning if renovation was extensive (full gut reno, major drywall work)
- ☐ Change humidifier pad or filter if applicable
- ☐ Test carbon monoxide detector after any work near furnace or gas lines

Air Purifier Tip

Running a portable HEPA air purifier during and after renovation significantly reduces airborne particle counts. Place in the room being renovated and run continuously for 48 hours after work is complete.

SECTION 10

When to Call a Professional



Professional post-renovation cleaning saves time and protects new surfaces from DIY damage.

DIY post-renovation cleaning is feasible for minor projects — a single painted room or bathroom refresh. For larger renovations, professional cleaning is usually faster, safer, and produces better results.

Call a Pro When...

- Full kitchen or bathroom gut renovation: The volume of drywall dust, adhesive residue, and debris in a full gut reno exceeds what most homeowners can safely address without HEPA equipment.
- New hardwood or tile floors: Improper cleaning during the post-reno phase can void manufacturer warranties and cause irreversible surface damage.
- Older home renovation: Homes built before 1980 may contain lead paint or asbestos. Professional cleaners are trained in safe containment and cleaning protocols.
- Multi-room renovation: The time required to properly clean a multi-room renovation often exceeds 20–30 hours. Professional crews with the right equipment complete the same work in a fraction of the time.
- Moving-in deadline: Post-renovation cleaning done under time pressure leads to shortcuts. A professional crew lets you move in on schedule without compromising air quality.

Binx Post-Renovation Service

Binx Professional Cleaning provides three-phase post-renovation cleaning for homeowners in North Bay and Sudbury. We bring HEPA vacuums, industrial floor equipment, and the right chemistry for every surface. Visit binx.ca or call (705) 845-0998 to book your post-reno clean.

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.



Let Binx Handle the Post-Reno Mess

Renovation dust gets everywhere — inside cabinets, ductwork, and wall cavities. Binx Professional Cleaning provides three-phase post-renovation cleaning for homeowners in North Bay and Sudbury. Call (705) 845-0998 or visit binx.ca to book.

Get a Free Quote — binx.ca/contact

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