FREE GUIDE FOR RENTERS WITH PETS

7 Apartment Pet Cleaning Tricks

Simple, renter-friendly ways to handle accidents, pet hair, litter and move-out records in a small apartment. Each trick is based on published veterinary or animal-welfare guidance, and we say where a tip is our own suggestion.

PawSpace Living
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1 Use an enzymatic cleaner on accidents

- Apply the cleaner, then leave it for the contact time on the label.
- Let the spot dry.
- Skip ammonia-based cleaners.
- Spot-test fabric first, and ventilate while it works. Set-in stains may need a repeat treatment.

Our guide: pawspaceliving.com/best-enzymatic-cleaner-pet-urine-odor/

2 Wipe upholstery with a damp rubber glove

- Put on a clean rubber dish glove, dampen it slightly, and run it over the fabric. The rubber attracts the hair, so you can pick it up.
- A clean sponge or a rubber squeegee works the same way. Check that your fabric can handle the treatment first.

Source: VCA Animal Hospitals, “Tips to get pet fur off clothes and upholstery.”

3 Run clothes and cushion covers through the dryer

- Add a dryer sheet, a reusable dryer ball or a damp microfiber cloth, and run the load.
- Empty the lint trap after every load so the hair does not build up.

Source: VCA Animal Hospitals. These are general tips, not tested results.

4 Brush before you clean

- Regular brushing removes loose hair before it reaches the couch. Shedding cannot be fully stopped, but it can be managed.
- Many sources suggest short-haired cats be groomed at least weekly and long-haired cats daily. Heavy-shedding dogs may need brushing several times a week, or daily at peak.
- Patchy loss or bald spots are a reason to call your vet, not a cleaning problem.

Sources: International Cat Care, AKC, PetMD, Merck Veterinary Manual.

5 Vacuum in two directions, dry-mop hard floors

- On carpet, vacuum twice and alternate the direction of the second pass.
- On hard floors, a dry microfiber or electrostatic mop picks up loose hair.

Source: a consumer home-care site (Apartment Therapy). This is a tip from that site, not a tested result.

6 Build a catch zone for litter

- Put a textured mat in front of the box so paws drop litter before the cat leaves the area.
- Sweep the catch zone when you scoop. Scooping daily is the standard advice from veterinary and welfare sources.
- A box setup your cat likes can reduce tracking, so keep the box quiet and easy to reach.

Our guide: pawspaceliving.com/stop-cat-litter-tracking-small-apartment/

7 Photograph every room at move-in

- Take dated photos of floors, walls, baseboards and doors before your pet settles in. Repeat them at move-out.
- Clear records help you show the difference between existing wear and new damage. They do not guarantee your deposit; what counts as normal wear depends on your lease and local law.

Our guide: pawspaceliving.com/get-security-deposit-back-with-a-pet/

Quick weekly routine

- **Daily:** scoop litter, sweep the catch zone, spot-clean accidents with an enzymatic cleaner.
- **Several times a week:** brush your pet.
- **Weekly:** glove the couch, vacuum carpet in two directions, dry-mop hard floors, run covers and throws through the dryer.

Want more? Read the full renter-friendly guides at pawspaceliving.com, and reply to any of our emails with a topic you would like covered.

Please note. This guide is general information, not veterinary or legal advice. We have not tested any product or method described here. Always follow product labels, and check your lease and local rules before changing anything in your rental. If your pet's coat, skin or toilet habits change suddenly, contact your veterinarian.