How to clean out a clutter-filled house or apartment

Follow this checklist to ensure you don't miss any cluttered corners in your home and keep your space clean and stress-free.

1 Plan and prepare

Before you move a single box, gather supplies like heavy-duty trash bags, boxes, and markers to ensure you have everything you need for a successful clutter cleanout.

2 Secure important documents and remove valuables

Search through desks, safes, and "junk drawers" to locate birth certificates, titles, and jewelry before the property clean-out begins in earnest.

3 Sort items room by room

Focusing on one area at a time prevents you from feeling scattered and allows you to see immediate progress.

4 Remove trash and junk

Once you've identified what you want to keep, it's time to remove all the unwanted items from your home.

5 Handle donations and sellable items

Set aside gently used furniture and clothes for local charities to give your items a new life.

6 Deep clean the space

After you've gotten rid of all the junk, it's time to thoroughly clean the floors, walls, and windows to make the property shine.

7 Dispose of hazardous or specialty items

Ensure that old paint, batteries, or chemicals are taken to specialized property clean-up facilities rather than thrown in the standard trash.

8 Final sweep and inspection

Take one last walk-through of the whole house to check inside appliances, closets, and cabinets for any mess left behind.