

TENANT DAMAGE versus "NORMAL WEAR AND TEAR"

INFORMATION SHEET

Normal costs of turning over an apartment after a tenant vacates may not be included on a claim for tenant damages. The costs an owner incurs for the basic cleaning and repairing of such items necessary to make a unit ready for occupancy by the next tenant are part of the costs of doing business. The following is a list of items typically attributable to routine use or "normal wear and tear".

Normal Wear and Tear

- Fading, peeling, or cracked paint
- Slightly torn or faded wallpaper
- Small chips in plaster
- Nail holes, pin holes, or cracks in wall
- Door sticking from humidity
- Cracked window pane from faulty foundation or building settling
- Floors needing coat of varnish
- Carpet faded or worn thin from walking
- Loose grouting and bathroom tiles
- Worn or scratched enamel in old bathtubs, sinks, or toilets
- Rusty shower rod
- Partially clogged sinks caused by aging pipes

Tenant damages usually require more extensive repair, and at greater cost than "normal wear and tear", and are more likely the result of a tenant's abuse or negligence that is above and beyond normal wear and tear.

Tenant Damage

- Gaping holes in walls or plaster
- Drawings, crayon markings, or wallpaper that owner did not approve
- Seriously damaged or ruined wallpaper
- Chipped or gouged wood floors
- Doors ripped off hinges
- Broken windows
- Missing fixtures
- Holes in ceiling from removed fixtures
- Holes, stains, or burns in carpet
- Missing or cracked bathroom tiles
- Chipped and broken enamel in bathtubs and sinks
- Clogged or damaged toilet from improper use
- Missing or bent shower rods

Examples provided above are not all inclusive but are given to provide guidance to residents regarding potential charges due to damages in their apartment home.