



HBR Rentals Property Management
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Wear and Tear vs. Damages

This document is meant to provide a general overview of the difference between wear and tear vs damage when making a security deposit return.

Security deposits can be used to repair damage for which a resident is responsible. However, the landlord cannot apply the security deposit to normal wear and tear. The question is: "What's the difference?"

NORMAL WEAR AND TEAR DEFINED

The legal definition of "normal wear and tear" as stated in the California Civil Code 1950.5.

"Normal wear and tear means that deterioration which occurs, based upon the use for which the rental unit is intended, without negligence, carelessness, accident, or abuse of the premises or equipment or chattels by the tenant or members of his household, or their invitees or guests."

Damage can, therefore, be defined as deterioration due to negligence, carelessness, accident, or abuse of the premises equipment or chattels by the tenant or member of his household or their invitees or guests.

The following is a list of examples and is intended as a guide to reasonable interpretation of the differences between expected "wear and tear" from normal residential use and irresponsible, intentional, or unintentional actions that cause damage to a landlord's property.

Courts have also ruled that the length of time a tenant has occupied a property must also be considered when assessing damages in relation to deductions to a tenant's security deposit, as well as the average life expectancy of the item. The longer a resident has resided in a property, the more allowance must be given for 'wear and tear' over damage.

Wear and Tear	Damages
1. Small nail holes caused by a 6 penny nail or smaller. A 6 penny nail is 2 inches long and is used for hanging picture frames and other items on walls.	Large holes from hanging shelves, pictures, screws, wall anchors, flat screen television brackets or any other wall hanging that causes damage larger than the 6-penny nail
2. Faded paint	Spot painting and patching or touch-up painting of any kind
3. Faded caulking around the bathtub and tiles	Missing caulking around the bathtub and tiles
4. Hard water deposits.	The buildup of dirt, mold, mildew, or water stains from a preventable or unreported water leak or drip
5. Worn out keys	Broken, lost, or unreturned keys
6. Loose or stubborn door lock	Broken or missing locks
7. Loose hinges or handles on doors	Damage from a door from forced entry or damage from using feet to open doors
8. Worn carpet traffic patterns	Torn, burned, stained, missing, ripped, scratched, or snagged carpet, pet damage
9. Faded finish on wood floors	Scratched, gouged, warped, or water-damaged wood floors
10. Linoleum worn thin	Linoleum with tears, chips, or holes
11. Worn countertops due to daily use	Burned, cut, stained, scratched or water-damaged countertops
12. Drywall cracks from settling	Holes in walls, doors, screens, or windows from misuse, negligence, carelessness, accident, or abuse
13. Faded, chipped or cracked paint	Unapproved or poor tenant paint job Ripped or marked-up wallpaper
14. Loose wallpaper	Ripped or marked-up wallpaper
15. Worn or heat blistered blinds	Broken, bent, cracked, or missing slats, wands, or hardware. Broken strings.

16. Dirty window and door screens	Torn or missing screens
17. Sticky Window	Broken window
18. Loose or inoperable faucet handle	Broken or missing faucet handle
19. Running toilet	Broken toilet seat, tank top, or chipped or cracked toilet bowl
20. Musty odor	Urine or pet odor throughout the unit
21. Closet bi-fold door off-track	Damaged or missing bi-fold door
22. Non-functioning smoke or CO detector	Missing or detached smoke detector or CO detector or missing batteries
23. Non-functioning light fixture	Missin, burnt-out, or incorrect-style light bulbs
26. Dry Lawn	Lawn with pet urine spots, dead areas, and excessive weeds.
27. Slow draining drains	Drains that are clogged by hair, toys, or other non-flushable objects.

For more information or help, contact HBR Rentals Property Management at 209-879-4680 or visit hbrrentals.com