

OTTAWA CONSTRUCTION CLEANING

Renovation Cleanup

Cleaning after kitchen, bathroom, and basement renovations, including dust containment removal, protective covering disposal, and restoring living spaces.

4 Expert Answers from Clean IQ

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Table of Contents

1. What cleanup is needed after re-insulating exterior walls in an older Ottawa home?
.....
2. What cleaning is needed after removing popcorn ceilings throughout an Ottawa home?
.....
3. What is the cost of cleanup after underpinning a basement in an older Ottawa neighbourhood?
.....
4. What is the best way to clean new quartz countertops after kitchen installation in Ottawa?
.....

What cleanup is needed after re-insulating exterior walls in an older Ottawa home?

Re-insulating exterior walls in an older Ottawa home creates significant cleanup challenges that require careful planning and specialized equipment to handle properly.

The insulation removal and installation process generates enormous amounts of fine particulate matter that spreads throughout your home. Old insulation, particularly if it's vermiculite or cellulose from the 1970s and 1980s, creates dust that contains not just insulation fibers but decades of accumulated dirt, pollen, and potentially hazardous materials. When contractors open up wall cavities, this material becomes airborne and settles on every surface in your home. The dry winter air in Ottawa, which drops to 15-20 percent humidity during heating season, makes this fine dust particularly problematic because it stays suspended longer and penetrates deeper into fabrics, vents, and crevices.

Post-Insulation Cleanup Process

The cleanup must begin with **HEPA air scrubbers** running continuously to capture airborne particles. These industrial units filter 500 square feet of air every 15 minutes and should operate during the work and for 48-72 hours afterward. Surface cleaning starts from the top down - ceilings, light fixtures, and ceiling fans first, then walls, followed by furniture and fixtures, with floors cleaned last. All HVAC vents require professional cleaning because insulation particles inevitably enter the ductwork, and running your furnace or air conditioning without cleaning will recirculate contamination throughout the house.

HEPA vacuuming is essential for all soft surfaces including upholstery, curtains, and carpeting. Regular household vacuums cannot capture particles smaller than 10 microns and will simply blow fine insulation dust back into the air through their exhaust. Hard surfaces need damp wiping with microfiber cloths, working in sections to avoid spreading dust. Windows often require specialized glass-safe solvents to remove the film that insulation dust creates when it contacts moisture or cleaning products.

Ontario Climate and Seasonal Considerations

Ottawa's extreme temperature swings affect the cleanup timeline significantly. If the re-insulation work happens during winter, your heating system will be working overtime, which means any dust that enters the ductwork gets circulated immediately. Spring insulation projects benefit from being able to open windows for ventilation, but Ottawa's clay-rich soil means tracked-in dirt compounds the cleanup challenge. Summer work allows for better ventilation but higher humidity can make dust stick to surfaces more tenaciously.

The Ontario Building Code requires proper vapor barrier installation during insulation work, and any plastic sheeting or construction materials used for containment must be carefully removed to avoid spreading contamination. If your older Ottawa home is in a heritage district like Centretown or Sandy Hill, be aware that dust control measures may need to consider protecting heritage features from aggressive cleaning methods.

Cost Expectations and Professional Requirements

Expect to pay **\$800 to \$2,200** for professional post-insulation cleanup in a typical Ottawa home, depending on square footage and contamination level. This includes HEPA vacuuming, air scrubbing, surface cleaning, and basic duct cleaning. HVAC duct cleaning adds another \$400-800 but is essential after wall insulation work. The entire cleanup process typically takes 6-12 hours for a professional crew.

DIY cleaning is not recommended for post-insulation work because of the specialized equipment required and potential health hazards from older insulation materials. Professional cleaners carry WSIB coverage and have the proper respiratory protection and HEPA filtration equipment necessary for safe cleanup.

For connecting with experienced post-construction cleaning professionals who understand insulation cleanup challenges, browse the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com where you can review local contractors and request quotes for your specific project.

Q2

What cleaning is needed after removing popcorn ceilings throughout an Ottawa home?

Popcorn ceiling removal creates an extraordinary amount of fine dust and debris that requires specialized post-construction cleaning to handle safely and thoroughly. The textured material breaks down into microscopic particles that become airborne and settle throughout your entire home, making this one of the messiest renovation projects you can undertake.

The Scope of Cleanup After Popcorn Ceiling Removal

The cleanup process begins with understanding what you're dealing with. Popcorn ceiling material consists of **vermiculite, styrofoam beads, and binding agents** that create an incredibly fine dust when scraped or sanded. This dust is so light that it remains suspended in the air for 48 to 72 hours after disturbance, settling into every corner, crevice, and surface in your home. In Ottawa's dry winter air, when indoor humidity drops to 15-20 percent during heating season, this dust becomes even more problematic as it stays airborne longer and penetrates deeper into fabrics, vents, and porous surfaces.

HEPA filtration is absolutely essential for proper cleanup after popcorn ceiling removal. Standard household vacuums cannot capture particles smaller than 10 microns and will simply blow the fine dust back into the air through their exhaust systems. Professional-grade HEPA vacuums capture 99.97 percent of particles down to 0.3 microns, which is critical for the microscopic debris created by ceiling texture removal. Air scrubbers should run continuously during and after cleaning to filter airborne particles that regular cleaning cannot reach.

The cleaning process must follow a strict **top-to-bottom sequence**. Start with wiping down all light fixtures, ceiling fans, and upper wall surfaces where dust has settled. Clean all walls with damp microfiber cloths, working from top to bottom in overlapping sections. Wipe down all furniture, baseboards, window sills, and surfaces before touching the floors. HVAC vents and ductwork require professional cleaning because the fine dust infiltrates the entire system and will recirculate throughout your home every time the furnace or air conditioning runs.

Floor cleaning requires multiple passes with different methods. First, use a HEPA vacuum to remove loose debris and dust. Follow with damp mopping using microfiber mops that can trap fine particles rather than pushing them around. Hardwood floors may need professional refinishing if the dust has settled into grain patterns or existing scratches. Carpeted areas often require professional steam cleaning because popcorn ceiling dust embeds deep into carpet fibers where household vacuums cannot reach.

In Ottawa's climate, **timing your cleanup matters significantly**. Winter removal projects create additional challenges because forced-air heating systems circulate dust more aggressively, and the dry air keeps particles suspended longer. Spring and summer removal allows for better ventilation and faster settling of airborne particles. However, summer humidity above 60 percent can cause damp cleaning methods to take longer to dry completely.

Professional post-construction cleaning after popcorn ceiling removal typically costs between \$1,200 and \$2,500 for a typical Ottawa home, depending on square footage and the extent of dust infiltration. This includes HEPA vacuuming, air scrubbing, surface cleaning, and basic HVAC vent cleaning. Expect the process to take 8 to 12 hours for a professional crew to complete thoroughly.

DIY cleanup is not recommended for whole-home popcorn ceiling removal due to the specialized equipment required and the health risks of prolonged exposure to fine particulate matter. For professional cleaning contractors experienced with post-renovation cleanup, browse the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com where you can connect with local cleaning professionals who understand the specific challenges of Ottawa's climate and building conditions.

Q3

What is the cost of cleanup after underpinning a basement in an older Ottawa neighbourhood?

Underpinning cleanup costs in Ottawa's older neighbourhoods typically range from \$1,500 to \$4,000 for a complete post-construction clean, depending on the basement size and extent of excavation work. Underpinning creates some of the messiest construction conditions possible because it involves concrete cutting, excavation, and pouring new foundation walls in an enclosed space where dust has nowhere to escape.

Understanding Underpinning Cleanup Challenges

Underpinning work generates an extraordinary amount of fine concrete dust, clay soil particles, and debris that penetrates every surface in the basement and often migrates upstairs through HVAC systems and stairwells. In Ottawa's older neighbourhoods like Centretown, Sandy Hill, and Westboro, many homes have original plaster walls and heritage details that require extra care during cleanup. The notorious Leda clay soil found throughout Ottawa creates a persistent reddish-brown dust that bonds aggressively to surfaces and requires specialized cleaning products to fully remove.

HEPA filtration is absolutely essential for underpinning cleanup because concrete cutting produces silica dust particles that are hazardous to breathe and impossible to capture with standard vacuums. Professional cleaning crews use multiple air scrubbers running continuously during the cleanup process to prevent fine particles from settling on freshly cleaned surfaces. The cleanup must proceed in phases – rough cleaning to remove bulk debris and heavy dust, followed by detailed cleaning of all surfaces, fixtures, and mechanical systems.

Winter underpinning projects in Ottawa create particularly challenging cleanup conditions because the bone-dry indoor air (15-20% humidity during heating season) keeps fine dust airborne for days. This means particles settle continuously even after initial cleaning, requiring multiple passes and extended air filtration. Summer projects benefit from higher humidity that helps settle dust faster, but surfaces take longer to dry after wet cleaning methods.

For a typical 800-square-foot basement underpinning project, expect rough cleaning to cost \$400-800, final detailed cleaning to run \$800-1,500, and HVAC duct cleaning (which is mandatory after underpinning) to add another \$400-600. **Exterior cleanup around foundation excavation areas costs an additional \$300-800** depending on landscaping restoration needs and soil remediation required.

The Ontario Building Code requires underpinned basements to pass inspection before occupancy, which means the space must be thoroughly cleaned and free of construction debris. Heritage properties in Ottawa's designated conservation districts may have additional requirements about cleaning products used near original stone or brick foundations.

Professional cleanup is strongly recommended for underpinning projects because the volume of hazardous dust and debris exceeds what homeowners can safely handle with household equipment. When you're ready to

hire a cleaning contractor, browse the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com to connect with experienced post-construction cleaning professionals who understand the unique challenges of underpinning cleanup in Ottawa's older homes.

What is the best way to clean new quartz countertops after kitchen installation in Ottawa?

New quartz countertops require gentle, specific cleaning methods to protect their surface and maintain their warranty coverage after kitchen installation.

Proper Quartz Cleaning After Installation

Quartz countertops arrive with a protective film and construction residue that must be removed carefully to avoid permanent damage. Start by removing any protective plastic sheeting, then use warm water with a few drops of mild dish soap and a soft microfiber cloth to wipe down the entire surface. **Never use abrasive cleaners, bleach, or acidic products like vinegar or lemon juice on new quartz** — these can etch the resin surface permanently and void your warranty.

For construction adhesive spots or caulk residue, use a plastic scraper to gently remove dried material, then clean with the soap solution. Paint splatters require careful attention — use a plastic razor blade held at a shallow angle to scrape off dried paint, followed by gentle cleaning with warm soapy water. **Avoid using paint solvents or acetone on quartz**, as these chemicals can damage the resin matrix that binds the quartz particles together.

In Ottawa's winter construction season, when indoor humidity drops to 15-20 percent, construction dust becomes extremely fine and settles into every surface texture. This dust can scratch quartz if not removed properly. Use a **HEPA vacuum with a soft brush attachment** to remove all loose dust before wet cleaning. Follow with the damp microfiber cloth method, working in small sections and rinsing the cloth frequently in clean water.

Ontario Building Code requirements mean your kitchen must pass final inspection before occupancy, and clean countertops are part of that standard. Quartz manufacturers typically require specific cleaning protocols to maintain warranty coverage — most specify pH-neutral cleaners only and prohibit abrasive pads or harsh chemicals.

For daily maintenance after installation, stick to warm water and mild soap, or use cleaners specifically formulated for quartz surfaces. **Expect to spend 30-45 minutes properly cleaning an average Ottawa kitchen's quartz surfaces** after installation. If your kitchen renovation included extensive drywall work or cabinet installation, the fine dust contamination may require professional post-construction cleaning with specialized equipment to achieve the thorough clean your new investment deserves.

For complex post-construction cleanup involving multiple surfaces and trades, browse cleaning contractors through the Ottawa Construction Network directory at justynrookcontracting.com to ensure your new kitchen gets the professional attention it needs.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Construction Cleaning. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified, licensed contractors and your local building authority before starting any post-construction cleaning or renovation cleanup project. Information is current as of May 24, 2026 and may change. Visit ottawaconstructioncleaning.com for the latest answers.