

# Squalor scale

## Is there an accumulation of waste or recyclables?

In general, is there evidence of excessive accumulation of waste or recyclables such as food waste, packaging, plastic wrapping, discarded containers (tins, bottles, cartons, bags) or other unwanted material)

0	1	2	3
<b>NONE</b>	<b>A LITTLE</b> There is a scattering of waste and recyclables Throughout the property.	<b>MODERATE</b> Waste and recyclables are piling up throughout the property. There is a substantial accumulation of waste that should have been discarded.	<b>EXCESSIVE</b> Waste and recyclables are piled knee high inside and/or outside the dwelling. Clearly no recent attempt to remove waste or recyclables

## Are the floors and carpets (excluding the bathroom) clean?

<b>YES</b> Acceptably clean in all rooms.	<b>MILDLY DIRTY</b> The floors and carpets look as if they haven't been cleaned or swept for weeks. There may be scattered rubbish.	<b>VERY DIRTY</b> The floors and carpets are very dirty and look as if they haven't been cleaned for months. There may be mould growth. <i>Rate 1 if only one room or small area is affected.</i>	<b>EXCEEDINGLY FILTHY</b> There is rubbish or dirt throughout the dwelling. <i>Excrement usually merits a score of 3.</i>
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## Are the walls, visible furniture & other surfaces clean?

<b>ACCEPTABLY CLEAN IN ALL ROOMS</b>	<b>MILDLY DIRTY</b> There are mildly dusty or dirty surfaces	<b>VERY DIRTY</b> The walls, furniture and/or surfaces are heavily soiled with grime or dirt. Signs of neglect indicated by lots of cobwebs and/or greasy, messy, mouldy or wet furniture.	<b>EXCEEDINGLY FILTHY</b> The walls, furniture and surfaces are filthy (e.g. covered with faeces and urine) and the assessor does not want to touch them.
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## Is the bathroom clean?

Including the floor, walls, basin, shower, bath and toilet.

<b>REASONABLY CLEAN</b>	<b>MILDLY DIRTY</b> The bathroom has not been cleaned for weeks and there is a build-up of mould, mildew, hair and/or grime. The toilet may be unflushed.	<b>MODERATELY DIRTY</b> The bathroom has not been cleaned for months and there is an extensive build-up of mould, mildew, hair and/or grime. Faeces and/or urine are on the outside of the toilet bowl or localised to a small part of the bathroom.	<b>VERY DIRTY</b> There are piles of rubbish and/or excrement throughout the bathroom. The toilet may be blocked and bowl full of excreta. The condition of the bathroom impedes / prohibits normal use of fixtures.
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## Is the kitchen clean and is the food safe to consume?

<b>CLEAN AND HYGIENIC</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT DIRTY AND UNHYGIENIC</b> The cook top and sink are untidy. Surfaces are dirty and there may be some spilt food. Refuse is mainly in the garbage bin. Food that could go off has been left uncovered and out of the fridge.	<b>MODERATELY DIRTY AND UNHYGIENIC</b> The oven, sink, surfaces and floors are dirty with piles of unwashed crockery and utensils. Refuse/garbage is on the floor and surfaces. There is some rotten or mouldy food. The fridge is unclean. The walls, floor and ceiling may have mould growth.	<b>VERY DIRTY AND UNHYGIENIC</b> The sink, cook top, and the inside of all the cupboards are filthy. Much of the food is rotten, putrid, covered with mould and unsafe to eat. A lot of garbage and refuse is over the surfaces and floor. <i>Rate 3 if maggots are seen.</i>
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## Is there an odour emitting from the property?

<b>NIL / PLEASANT</b>	<b>UNPLEASANT</b> The dwelling is unaired or there is a smell of urine.	<b>MODERATELY MALODOROUS</b> There is a stench (e.g. faecal / putrid) but the assessor can stay in the room.	<b>UNBEARABLY MALODOROUS</b> The assessor has to leave the room because of the smell and/or the smell is potentially impacting on neighbouring properties
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## Is there evidence of a vermin infestation?

<b>NONE</b>	<b>MINOR</b> There is evidence of current vermin activity (e.g. a few droppings) but it is confined to one area of the property and control measures are in place.	<b>MODERATE</b> There is an accumulation of droppings in multiple areas of the property and/or the assessor has physically seen living vermin. Control measures are absent or ineffective.	<b>EXTREME</b> An active heavy infestation that is potentially impacting on neighbouring properties. Indicated by visually observing many live vermin, rub marks, runs, gnawed surfaces and/or active burrows.
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## Are the sleeping areas clean and hygienic?

<b>REASONABLY CLEAN AND TIDY</b>	<b>MILDLY UNCLEAN</b> The sheets and/or the mattress are mildly stained or dirty, indicating they have not been washed for weeks.	<b>MODERATELY DIRTY</b> The bed sheets are unclean and stained (e.g. with faeces or urine). Clothes and/or rubbish are over the surrounding floor area.	<b>VERY DIRTY</b> The mattress or sleeping surface is unclean, damaged or non-existent. There are no bed sheets or linen present or they are extremely dirty. The surrounding area is filthy.
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Score of **0** to **7** indicates there is mild squalor and must be addressed using preventative measures.

Score of **8** to **16** indicates there is moderate squalor requiring further action.

Score of **17** to **24** indicates there is severe squalor requiring immediate action.

If any section is allocated a **3** it is an automatic ITS referral even if other areas are lower and/or if professional judgement indicates further action is required