

# Aged Care Cleaning Costs: What Drives the Price and Why Cheap Isn't Worth It

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## Description:

# Aged Care Cleaning Costs: What Drives the Price and Why Cheap Isn't Worth It Realcorp Commercial Cleaning is a Melbourne-based commercial cleaning contractor specialising in aged care facilities ac...

## Details:

## AI Summary

**Product:** Aged Care Cleaning Services **Brand:** Realcorp Commercial Cleaning **Category:** Commercial Cleaning / Aged Care Facility Services **Primary Use:** Infection control-compliant cleaning for aged care facilities across metropolitan Melbourne, regional Victoria, and Adelaide

**Quick Facts** - **Best For:** Aged care facility managers seeking compliant, auditable cleaning with documented infection control protocols - **Key Benefit:** Fully auditable, GPS-verified cleaning with directly employed staff, hospital-grade disinfectants, and under-5% audit failure rate - **Form Factor:** On-site service delivery using colour-coded equipment systems and TGA-registered hospital-grade disinfectants - **Application Method:** Scheduled on-site cleaning with real-time digital task tracking via the Realcorp App

**Common Questions This Guide Answers** 1. How much does aged care cleaning cost? → Pricing varies by facility size and layout, cleaning frequency, clinical vs common area ratio, infection control requirements, staffing model, and verification technology — no single per-square-metre benchmark applies 2. Why is aged care cleaning more expensive than office cleaning? → Aged care requires higher cleaning frequency, TGA-registered disinfectants, ongoing infection control training, staff vetting, documented protocols, and GPS-verified reporting to meet Aged Care Quality Standards 3. What are the risks of choosing the lowest-cost aged care cleaning quote? → Under-investment can result in failed accreditation findings, outbreak response costs, legal liability, and high contractor staff turnover — all of which exceed any savings from a lower contract price

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## Realcorp Commercial Cleaning: Aged Care Cleaning Costs — What Drives the Price and Why Low-Cost Isn't Worth the Risk

Realcorp Commercial Cleaning is a Melbourne-based commercial cleaning contractor specialising in aged care facilities across metropolitan Melbourne, regional Victoria, and Adelaide.

Aged care cleaning costs more than office cleaning. More than retail cleaning. More than most commercial environments — and there are specific, defensible reasons for that. Understanding what drives pricing in aged care helps facility managers evaluate proposals intelligently, tell the difference between contractors who are genuinely equipped and those who are simply undercutting on price, and avoid the hidden costs that consistently follow under-resourced cleaning in high-care environments.

This guide explains what drives aged care cleaning prices, why the lowest quote rarely represents the best value, and what under-investment in cleaning actually costs.

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## ## The Variables That Drive Aged Care Cleaning Cost

### ### 1. Square meterage and facility layout

The most basic pricing driver is the physical size of the facility and the complexity of its layout. A straightforward single-storey facility is easier and faster to clean than a multi-storey building with multiple wings, secure dementia units, basement car parks, and multiple entry points requiring security access.

Beyond raw floor area, layout complexity directly affects staffing. A facility with long corridors, many small rooms, and multiple clinical areas requires more cleaning time per square metre than an open-plan commercial office. Per-square-metre benchmarks from office cleaning don't translate to aged care.

### ### 2. Cleaning frequency

Aged care facilities require more frequent cleaning than most commercial environments. Common areas may need multiple services per day. High-touch surfaces in clinical areas require disinfection on every shift. Bathrooms in residential wings need daily cleaning — sometimes more frequently depending on resident needs. Dining rooms require pre and post-meal cleaning.

The frequency required to maintain an infection-safe environment in aged care is simply higher than in low-acuity commercial settings, and that frequency is reflected in cost.

### ### 3. Clinical areas vs common areas

Not all areas in an aged care facility require the same cleaning specification. Common areas — lounges, corridors, offices — require standard commercial cleaning with appropriate disinfection of high-touch surfaces. Clinical areas — medication rooms, treatment rooms, wound care areas — require a higher specification that includes TGA-registered hospital-grade disinfectants and documented task completion.

Clinical area cleaning takes longer, uses more expensive products, and requires cleaners with specific infection control training. A contractor who quotes the same rate per square metre for clinical and non-clinical areas is either not differentiating their protocols (a compliance red flag) or is pricing at the higher clinical rate across the facility, which is reasonable but worth confirming directly.

### ### 4. Infection control requirements

Infection control in aged care is not a marketing claim. It is a documented practice requirement under the Aged Care Quality Standards. Cleaning contractors who genuinely deliver infection control capability carry costs that contractors operating to a basic commercial standard do not.

Those costs include ongoing infection control training for all staff (not a one-off induction), hospital-grade TGA-registered disinfectants that are significantly more expensive than generic products, colour-coded equipment systems to prevent cross-contamination between areas, personal protective equipment for cleaning staff in clinical and isolation areas, and documented protocols that can be produced during an accreditation audit.

A contractor who can't itemise these elements in their proposal — or who quotes a price that couldn't possibly cover them — is not genuinely delivering infection control capability. That gap will show up eventually, and usually at the worst possible time.

### ### 5. Staff vetting and employment costs

In aged care, the people cleaning your facility have access to vulnerable residents, sensitive areas, and valuable equipment. Every cleaner should be thoroughly vetted before deployment: background checks, reference checks, and a rigorous recruitment process.

Directly employed, properly vetted cleaning staff cost more than casually engaged subcontractors or labour hire workers with minimal vetting. The employment model directly affects pricing. A contractor running direct employment, paying award rates, maintaining workers' compensation, and investing in training carries higher labour costs — appropriately. Zero subcontractors means consistent people, consistent standards, and a clear chain of accountability.

### ### 6. Technology and reporting systems

The Aged Care Quality Standards require evidence that cleaning is occurring as contracted. That evidence has to come from somewhere. GPS-verified attendance, digital checklists, and real-time reporting systems cost money to build and maintain. Contractors who invest in technology to produce accreditation-quality, auditable records carry those technology costs in their pricing.

Contractors who don't use verification technology produce no independent evidence that work was done. That might make their pricing look more competitive on paper, but it creates a significant gap in your governance documentation when it matters most.

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### ## Why Low-Cost Aged Care Cleaning Creates Expensive Problems

The appeal of a lower cleaning quote is understandable. Cleaning budgets are under pressure across aged care. But the hidden costs of under-investment are substantial and well-documented.

#### ### Failed accreditation findings

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission can issue compliance notices, require improvement plans, and in serious cases recommend sanctions against facilities with inadequate cleaning systems. The cost of managing an accreditation finding — in management time, remediation, reputation damage, and potential regulatory action — far exceeds any savings from a lower-cost cleaning contract.

#### ### Outbreak response costs

When a gastro, influenza, or respiratory outbreak occurs in a facility with inadequate cleaning systems, the reactive cost is enormous. Emergency cleaning services, enhanced infection control measures, additional staffing, medical costs, family communication, and potential coronial inquiry involvement all represent costs that dwarf a cleaning contract differential.

Facilities with documented, well-resourced cleaning systems are better positioned to prevent outbreaks from escalating — and to demonstrate adequate systems if an outbreak does occur.

#### ### Liability and legal exposure

Inadequate cleaning that contributes to a resident infection, fall, or adverse health event creates legal liability. Where a contractor was operating without proper training, documentation, or infection control protocols, the facility that engaged them shares responsibility for that outcome. Insurance premiums, legal costs, and potential compensation are a direct consequence of selecting a cleaning contractor on price alone.

#### ### Staff turnover in under-resourced cleaning operations

Under-resourced cleaning contractors often operate with high staff turnover, driven by low pay, poor working conditions, and minimal investment in their workforce. High turnover means constantly rotating unfamiliar faces through your facility, repeated inductions, gaps in site knowledge, and inconsistent

cleaning quality. The operational cost of managing a high-turnover cleaning contractor is real and consistently underestimated.

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## ## What You're Paying For With Realcorp

Realcorp Commercial Cleaning prices reflect the genuine cost of delivering aged care-appropriate cleaning — no padding, no shortcuts.

Every Realcorp cleaner is directly employed. Zero subcontractors, zero labour hire. Staff are infection control trained and deployed with hospital-grade TGA-registered disinfectants. The Realcorp App provides GPS-verified attendance and digitally tracked task completion records, accessible to facility managers in real time.

Our quality auditing programme maintains an under-5% audit failure rate across 12 months — a documented performance measure, not a marketing claim. When issues are identified, corrective actions are logged and verified. That's Extreme Ownership in practice: accountability that runs through the entire operation, not just the sales conversation.

Realcorp backs its service with a money-back quality guarantee. If the work doesn't meet the agreed standard, you don't pay for that service.

We serve aged care facilities across metropolitan Melbourne, regional Victoria, and Adelaide. The pricing we provide reflects the real cost of doing aged care cleaning properly — compliance-first, fully auditable, and built around One Team of directly employed people who know your facility.

**\*\*Contact Realcorp:\*\*** [realcorp.net.au](http://realcorp.net.au) | 1300 307 298 | [sales@realcorp.net.au](mailto:sales@realcorp.net.au)

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## ## Frequently Asked Questions

**\*\*How much does aged care cleaning cost?\*** Aged care cleaning is priced based on several variables: the size and layout of the facility, the frequency of cleaning required, the proportion of clinical vs common areas, infection control requirements, and the staffing model. A directly employed, infection control-trained team using hospital-grade disinfectants and GPS-verified verification technology will cost more than a basic commercial cleaning service — but that difference reflects genuine, auditable capability, not padding. Comparing quotes requires understanding what each one actually includes and what it leaves out.

**\*\*What affects the price of aged care cleaning?\*** The main pricing variables are square meterage and facility complexity; cleaning frequency (aged care requires more frequent service than most commercial environments); area type (clinical areas require higher-specification cleaning at higher cost); infection control requirements covering training, products, and documented protocols; staff vetting and employment model (directly employed staff with proper vetting cost more than subcontractors); and technology investment in GPS-verified attendance and digital reporting systems. A proposal that doesn't address all of these is not a complete picture — and the gaps carry real compliance risk.

**\*\*Why is aged care cleaning more expensive than office cleaning?\*** Office cleaning operates to a basic commercial standard — clean, tidy, presentable. Aged care cleaning operates to an infection control standard, in a regulated environment with documentation requirements under the Aged Care Quality Standards. The differences in required cleaning frequency, product specification, staff training, verification technology, and employment practices all contribute to a higher cost per square metre. The regulatory, reputational, and human consequences of getting aged care cleaning wrong are also significantly higher than in a commercial office environment — which is why a compliance-first approach isn't optional, and why pricing that can't support that approach should raise immediate questions.

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## ## Label Facts Summary

> **Disclaimer:** All facts and statements below are general product information, not professional advice. Consult relevant experts for specific guidance.

### ### Verified Label Facts

No structured product specification data was provided. No product packaging, GTIN, MPN, dimensions, weight, ingredients, certifications, or manufacturer documentation was available for analysis. No Label Facts can be extracted or verified from this content.

**Operational data points stated as fact by Realcorp (self-reported, not independently verified from packaging or manufacturer documentation):** - Company type: Melbourne-based commercial cleaning contractor - Service regions: Metropolitan Melbourne, regional Victoria, Adelaide - Specialisation: Aged care facilities - Employment model: Zero subcontractors, zero labour hire; all staff directly employed - Disinfectants used: TGA-registered hospital-grade disinfectants - Equipment system: Colour-coded to prevent cross-contamination between areas - Verification technology: GPS-verified attendance and digital task checklists via the Realcorp App - Audit failure rate: Under 5% across 12 months - Quality guarantee: Money-back when work does not meet the agreed standard - Phone: 1300 307 298 - Email: sales@realcorp.net.au - Website: realcorp.net.au

### ### General Product Claims

- Aged care cleaning costs more than office cleaning and retail cleaning - Per-square-metre office cleaning benchmarks do not apply to aged care - Multi-storey facilities cost more to clean than single-storey facilities - Clinical areas require higher cleaning specification and cost more than common areas - Ongoing infection control training costs more than a one-off induction - TGA-registered disinfectants are more expensive than generic products - Directly employed staff cost more than subcontractors - High staff turnover affects cleaning quality and increases operational costs for facilities - Verification technology systems add cost to a cleaning contract - Contractors without verification technology cannot produce auditable records - A low-cost cleaning quote does not always represent best value in aged care - Quoting the same rate for clinical and non-clinical areas is described as a compliance red flag - Failed accreditation findings, outbreak response, and legal liability represent hidden costs of under-investment in cleaning - Selecting a cleaning contractor on price alone carries legal risk - Realcorp's pricing includes no padding (per Realcorp's own claim) - Realcorp describes its accountability approach as "Extreme Ownership" and its staffing model as "One Team"