



HOME HACKS THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR LIFE

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Abstract

Transforming your living space can significantly enhance your daily life with some simple home hacks. Start by decluttering to create a more organized and serene environment; use storage solutions like baskets, shelves, and under-bed boxes to keep everything in its place. Incorporate plants to improve air quality and add a touch of nature. Upgrade your lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs and strategically placed lamps to create a cozy and well-lit atmosphere. Utilize multipurpose furniture to maximize space, especially in smaller homes. Finally, establish dedicated zones for work, relaxation, and activities to maintain a balanced and productive lifestyle. These small changes can lead to a more comfortable, efficient, and enjoyable home experience.



1. Introduction

Incorporating smart technology into your home can drastically improve your daily routine and overall quality of life. Start by installing smart thermostats to efficiently manage your home's temperature, saving energy and reducing costs. Use smart plugs and bulbs to control lighting and appliances remotely, enhancing convenience and security. Set up a voice-activated assistant to manage tasks, play music, and provide reminders. Enhance your entertainment system with a smart TV or streaming device for seamless access to your favorite shows and movies. Additionally, consider smart security systems with cameras and sensors to monitor your home, ensuring peace of mind. These innovations not only add convenience but also contribute to a more connected and streamlined living environment.

2. Hacks To Refinish Wood Furniture

Refinishing furniture can be a rewarding and engaging project you can do by yourself. Learning how to refinish wood furniture like chairs, cabinets and tables is an easy way to transform old furniture to match your new style. All you need is sandpaper, cleaning cloths, wood fillers and wood paint to bring dusty furniture back to life. The good news is, you don't have to be an expert in carpentry to make antique furniture look brand new with furniture refinishing.



When to Refinish Wood Furniture

Before stripping the finish of any piece of wood furniture, you need to decide whether it needs to be refinished at all. Sometimes, a clear coat of wood conditioner is all you need to revitalize it.

There are different signs it's time to refinish wood furniture in Canberra you should look for when considering a restoration project. Here's how you can tell it is time to refinish antique wood furniture:

There are noticeable rings and water marks under the current finish that won't go away with conditioners or wood cleaning products.

The surface is starting to feel sticky, even after being cleaned.

There are noticeable worn-out patches and blemishes, even after being cleaned.

The wood has changed color, usually becoming darker and the clear coat has become yellowish.

The existing finish has cracked down the wood and it's starting to flake or chip off.

Safety Considerations

Safety considerations are critical when taking on a project like refinishing furniture. Remember to read the labels of all the materials you're about to use, especially since you'll be working with different chemicals that have health and fire hazards.

Use safety goggles, dust masks, and protective gloves at all times to protect yourself. Choose a well-ventilated area to work to prevent fires and avoid inhaling the fumes from the chemicals. Finally, remember to keep all items out of the reach of children and pets to prevent them from getting a hold of dangerous substances.

- Tools
- Safety glasses
- Putty knife
- Power sander
- Sandpaper
- Dust mask
- Work gloves
- Cleaning cloths or microfiber towels
- Materials
- Paint stripper
- Steel wool
- Wood filler
- Wood stain or paint
- Furniture wax

- Polyurethane
- Wood oil

Instructions

Follow these easy steps to learn how to refinish wood furniture at home.

1. Clean the Furniture



Any DIY refinishing project starts with basic cleaning. Use mild dish soap, warm water and a sponge to remove any dirt or debris stuck to the piece of furniture. Thoroughly dry it using a clean cleaning cloth or microfiber towel.

2. Remove the Finish

This is probably the most time-consuming part of refinishing wood furniture. Remove any old paint, varnish, or wood stains by sanding the entire piece. Another option involves using chemical strippers or paint strippers.

This method is probably the fastest and easiest method. If you choose chemical strippers, make sure to carefully follow the instructions, use rubber gloves and eye protection and choose a room with plenty of ventilation.

Most chemical strippers need to be scraped away using a putty knife and steel wool to remove the entire finish. Some paint strippers might still require you to sand down the wood piece to remove any remaining chemicals.

3. Prepare the Wood

After stripping down the previous finish, let it dry. Now, it's time to prepare the wood for the following steps. Start using 120 grit sandpaper to clean any remaining finish and start to smooth out the wood. Then, follow with 200 grit sandpaper to smooth out the surface. Emphasize any rough places, swirl marks, or other noticeable defects. Taking time to do a superb sanding job will make a huge difference once the piece is complete.

4. Fill the Grain

Depending on the wood you're working with, you may or may not have to do this step. Woods like oak and mahogany tend to have an open grain that needs to be filled if you want a smooth finish. You can find grain filler as a pigmented paste in various colors. Choose the one closest to your furniture. If you're changing the color of your wood furniture, then choose one that closely matches the expected finish.

5. Stain or Paint the Wood



Now, your wood furniture is ready for a new coat of paint or a new stain finish. Apply your selected stain or paint following the instructions on the paint. Let it fully dry before deciding whether or not you want to apply another layer.

Oil-based wood stains penetrate the wood without raising the grain. These offer the most control since the color can be darkened with more layers. Water-based stains raise the grain of the wood but are easier to use. Another option is gel stains, which offer more control

because of the thickness of the stain, but they do require the wood to be buffed between coats to achieve a smooth finish.

6. Finish the Furniture

The last step for refinishing wood furniture is to apply a wood finish. You can choose from wood oils, waxes, lacquer, or polyurethane. Polyurethane is one of the most popular options since it lasts the longest. Apply a heavy coat of sealer to your furniture, allow it to soak into the wood for at least 30 minutes and wipe off any excess with a clean cloth.

If any scratches or defects are still visible, simply sanding over it and rubbing more wood oil in the affected area should suffice.

When to Call a Pro

Most wood refinishing projects require beginner skills. However, sometimes you have to consider whether it might be best to hire a professional. As you're looking at the unique piece you want to restore, ask yourself these questions to decide if it's worth taking this restoration project or not:

Is this an antique? Pieces from the 1950s and 1960s are generally built from solid wood instead of laminates or particleboard. These materials are usually not worth refinishing, but they can be quite valuable. If you aren't sure, consider consulting an antique specialist before taking on a refinishing project.

Is the piece stable? Test the sturdiness of the piece. If things have to be taken apart or re-glued, these might be steps that need professional supervision in Canberra. This is particularly common if you're trying to refinish more complex wood furniture pieces like dressers or cabinets.

Do I have the right space? At last, you need to know if you have space in your house to do the project. Since you'll be working with chemicals and other substances, having a well-ventilated room is key to manage the fumes. When sanding, expect a lot of dust in the room that can be hazardous without protection.

3. DIY Paint Hacks Worth Trying In Your Home

Painting the interior of your home may seem like a daunting task, but thanks to the internet, social media platforms, and even home improvement television shows, it's become easier than ever. That's because professional and novice painters alike have been discovering and sharing hacks that make the process easier, cleaner, and even more fun.



Doing your own interior paint job can be beneficial. As Sold notes, there are positives associated with the idea of painting your home yourself. For instance, going the DIY route allows you more control over the final outcome. Complete the job on your timeline and your way! Plus, doing your own painting will help you save money, as hiring it out can get pricey fast. With all that being said, there's never been a better time than now to try your hand at painting – and you can make the entire process easier by taking advantage of these clever hacks.

Soak your brush in fabric softener

One struggle with painting can be cleaning your brushes well. Brushes that aren't clean will have residue and leftover paint on them and will become stiff and harder to use. This can cause a lot of frustration, as you'll end up feeling like you have to keep buying new brushes to get the job done. That's where this clever hack comes in.

Instructables shares how you can more thoroughly and efficiently clean a paintbrush with the use of fabric softener. To do so, blot off as much paint as possible from the brush, using a rag or a piece of paper towel. The more paint you're able to remove, the quicker the cleaning process will be. Then, pour an eighth cup of fabric softener into a bucket or large bowl, mixing it with four cups of warm water. Thoroughly mix the two solutions together. Then, put your paintbrush in the liquid and you'll see the paint come off into the fluid, eventually resting at the bottom of the bucket. Once all paint is off the brush, rinse it under cold water to get the remaining fabric softener off, then dry it. Just like that, your brush will be clean as a whistle!

Do this to reduce the odor of paint

One downside of painting the interior of your home is the odor that comes along with it. These fumes can be quite overwhelming. Thankfully, Valspar Paint has some helpful tricks to help reduce the smell throughout the project.

Their first suggestion is to use onions to get rid of the paint smell. This may sound counterintuitive, but it actually works. Plus, it's easy to do. Onions have a chemical in them that neutralizes the scent of paint. Just chop an onion in half and place it in the room you're painting to get rid of that distinctive paint smell.

Another tip they offer is to use a common pantry staple: Baking soda. As you probably know, baking soda is good at naturally absorbing unwanted odors in your home. To get rid of the smell of paint chemicals, pour a good amount into small bowls and place them throughout the room you're painting. Let the bowls sit overnight to soak up the smell. Then, in the morning, toss the baking soda and replace it as needed until your project is finished and the smell has subsided.

Use a sponge to aid in fixing paint mistakes

Paint mistakes can cause frustration, but it's unlikely that you'll get through the entirety of a project without making at least a few. The good thing is that there are easy ways to fix them. One way is explained in this video, produced by Benjamin Moore. The source explains that if you end up with a rogue drop of paint that dries unevenly, you can use a flat razor to gently shave off the uneven dried paint. Then, use sandpaper to smooth it out. From there, use a damp sponge to clean off the area and allow it to dry. Then, you can use a brush with a small amount of paint on it to touch up the spot as needed in Canberra. Alternatively, a cotton swab is another great way to precisely add paint to the spot that you shaved off and sanded. From there, you may need to do a couple more coats on that area and around it to blend it with the rest of the surrounding paint. After that, you won't ever be able to tell there was a mistake!

The surprising use for petroleum jelly while painting



Believe it or not, you can use petroleum jelly to help with your paint job. Love Grows Wild shares a tutorial for distressing paint with this common household item, and it simply couldn't be any easier! You'll need only three simple materials: a rag, petroleum jelly, and a paintbrush. From there, apply a thin layer of petroleum jelly to the edges of the project or anywhere you want the paint to look distressed. It's important to note that paint won't stick to spots with petroleum jelly, so make sure you are using it somewhat sparingly. You may want to do this with a cotton swab or even your fingers. It doesn't have to be perfect for your desired distressed look!

Then, paint the area as you normally would. Let it dry somewhat, until it's still wet to the touch. Then, dampen the rag and rub it over the petroleum jelly spots. This will allow you to easily wipe away the paint, creating the desired weathered look. It's as easy as that!

4. Home Organizing Hacks to Conquer Clutter



If you are stuck in a decluttering slump, use these clutter hacks to get your home clutter-free. They cover each room in your house and each type of household clutter with the best ideas to declutter your spaces.

Designate a Spot for 'Junk'

Whether you accumulate junk by the front door, in front of the TV, or in a drawer, it's best to limit yourself to one small space.

In your living room or TV room, store remote controls in a caddy. It's amazing how much a caddy or tray can transform a pile of clutter into something useful. If you have a junk drawer,

dishrags. Carefully place fabric items on metal shower hooks, or use plastic shower hooks instead.

Declutter Your Mudroom With Built-In Storage, Hooks, and Bins

The mudroom or entry tends to be a dumping ground. Take the time to either DIY or build proper storage for things like umbrellas, winter gear, bags, and shoes. Organize your mudroom by moving stuff off the floor and onto hooks for easy retrieval. Built-in storage such as shelves or cubbies can also go a long way to uncluttering a mudroom.

In the end, your mudroom will be functional and look better.

Be Prepared With Baskets

Use attractive baskets for quick living room decluttering. This corrals clutter in a way that doesn't detract from your decorating scheme.

Create a Clutter Cabinet for Home Accessories



A "clutter cabinet" can store home accessories like tchotchkes, picnic gear, candlesticks, and centerpieces, and decor items you display only sometimes, like picture frames, mementos, vases, and seasonal items.

These can be stored in an accessories cabinet or in project bins. This way, when you want to change up your decor or entertain, you know exactly where to retrieve these items. Plus, when it's time to store them again, you know exactly where to put them.

Have a System for Project Magazines

Don't save a magazine for one recipe in it. Have a system for managing the content in magazines you actually want to keep. Store recipes in your recipe file, DIY project ideas in your DIY project file, and so on.

Invest in a Shredder

If you have lots of paper clutter, a shredder will help keep it under control. Use a shredder as you go through the mail so these piles of junk mail don't even get a chance to accumulate. Also, periodically go through your files to see if there is anything you can shred.

5. Use Cleaning Vinegar to Clean Almost Everything



Cleaning vinegar is a natural ingredient that can be used to clean many items and surfaces around the house. While there are many types of vinegar used for cooking and salad dressings (red, white, champagne, balsamic, rice, apple cider, to name a few), cleaning vinegar is an entirely different product that's made specifically for household cleaning and should never be consumed. If you would like to move away from commercial cleaning products filled with chemicals, then consider this as an alternative. Here's everything you need to know about cleaning vinegar and how to use it all over the house—plus a few items you should never clean with vinegar.

What Is Cleaning Vinegar?

All kinds of vinegar contain acid that brings brightness to foods or helps in food preservation. Distilled white vinegar is often used for cleaning because it is colorless and contains about 5 percent acetic acid.

Cleaning vinegar and distilled white vinegar are made in the same way—by fermenting alcohols distilled from corn or grains. Microorganisms (bacteria) process the alcohol into acetic acid and water, or vinegar. Cleaning vinegar contains around 6 percent acid, which actually makes it 20 percent stronger than distilled white vinegar. A 1:1 solution of vinegar and water is great for cleaning out receptacles like kitchen compost bins and sink caddies. You can soak watering cans overnight in the solution to tackle deposits and stubborn scum.

You can find cleaning vinegar in the cleaning products aisle at grocery stores. If using undiluted cleaning vinegar, wear gloves to protect your hands from irritation. Do not confuse cleaning vinegar with industrial vinegar. Industrial vinegar contains 20 percent acetic acid, releases strong fumes, and can permanently damage the surfaces of floors and kitchen counters.

While cleaning vinegar can be combined with some other cleaners, like dishwashing liquid, never mix cleaning vinegar and chemical cleaners, like chlorine bleach, which, when combined, produce toxic fumes. Choose one or the other—clean your oven with vinegar and baking soda or use a good commercial oven cleaner.

How to Make a Dawn and Vinegar Cleaner

Combining cleaning vinegar with the surfactants in dishwashing liquid creates an all-purpose cleaner that will cut through grime and grease. By varying the formula, you can use the solution for everything from cleaning the kitchen to washing windows to removing soap scum in the bathroom. Remember to wear gloves when cleaning with these solutions.

What You'll Need

- Dawn dishwashing liquid
- Cleaning vinegar
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Spray bottles
- Labels

Instructions

To create an all-purpose cleaner for windows, counters, and kitchen fixtures: Combine 1/4 cup cleaning vinegar and 2 1/2 cups water in a spray bottle. Add 1/2 teaspoon dishwashing liquid. Shake well to mix and label the bottle. To use, lightly spray the soiled surfaces and wipe away grime with a lint-free cloth.

To create a soap scum remover for the bathroom: Mix equal parts cleaning vinegar, dishwashing liquid, and water in a spray bottle. Shake to mix well and label the bottle. To use, start at the top of the shower stall or glass doors and spray on the solution. Allow it to work for at least one minute, and then scrub with a soft-bristled nylon brush. Rinse with clean water and dry with a lint-free towel. For cleaning toilets with persistent stains like rust, we suggest using a tool like the Powerhouse Pumice Stone instead.

How to Use Cleaning Vinegar on Floors



Cleaning vinegar can also be used on floors, including most hardwood floors, luxury vinyl tile, and laminate wood floors. Fill a bucket with 1 gallon of warm water and 1/2 cup cleaning vinegar. Use a sponge or microfiber mop, wringing well to prevent over-wetting the floor. Rinse the mop head often. There's no need to rinse the floor; the solution will not leave residue or streaks.

How to Use Cleaning Vinegar to Clear Clogged Pipes

Bathroom cleaners are great for deep cleaning your bathroom surfaces. Still, to keep your drains clear, you need something to handle scummy buildup in the pipes. Cleaning vinegar

and baking soda are a powerful combination to quickly clean slow-running drains in the bathroom or kitchen. While they won't remove hair clogs, the combo is very effective on odors, soap scum, and grease that can coat pipes. This process works particularly well to remove garbage disposal odors.

Pour 4 cups hot water down the drain. Add 1 cup dry baking soda to the drain. Pour in 1 cup cleaning vinegar. There will be fizzing and bubbling, so cover the drain with a stopper to keep as much of the action in the pipes as possible. When the bubbling stops, flush the drain with more hot water. A monthly cleaning will help keep drains odor-free and running smoothly (including shower drains).

How to Clean a Keurig With Cleaning Vinegar

You'll have better-tasting coffee if you clean your single-serve coffee makers and drip coffee makers monthly with cleaning vinegar to remove limescale, bacteria, and oils that can become rancid. Use cleaning vinegar to descale your coffee maker or electric kettle every three to six months. This process also works great for cleaning tea kettles.

Unplug the appliance. Make sure there are no coffee pods in the machine.

Add cleaning vinegar to the water fill line. Set the appliance aside and let the vinegar work for at least four hours.

After soaking, connect the power for the coffee maker and press the "on" button (be sure to have a coffee mug in place). Don't insert a K-cup. Allow the vinegar to process through the machine.

If your Keurig has a reservoir, keep "making coffee" and discarding the contents in the mug as necessary until the reservoir is empty.

Refill the appliance with fresh water and repeat the process until all of the water in the reservoir is emptied. This will ensure your next cup of coffee doesn't have a vinegar taste.

How to Clean a Microwave With Cleaning Vinegar

Cleaning vinegar works wonders to return your crusty, splattered microwave to a pristine state.

What You'll Need

- Cleaning vinegar
- Dishwashing liquid
- Lint-free cloth

- Sponge

Instructions:

Fill a microwaveable bowl with 2 cups water and 1/4 cup cleaning vinegar. Place the bowl in the microwave and heat on high for one to two minutes or until the mixture boils and steams up the interior of the appliance.

Leave the door closed for about 15 minutes so the steam can loosen the splatters on the inside of the microwave. While the steam is working, use your all-purpose cleaning vinegar and Dawn solution to clean the outside of the microwave. Spray the surfaces lightly and wipe dry with a lint-free cloth.

When the steam has dissipated, open the microwave door and carefully remove the bowl and the glass turntable. Use a sponge to wipe away the grime inside the microwave and the interior of the door. The turntable can be hand-washed with the all-purpose solution or placed in the dishwasher.

To clean the gasket around the door and any greasy areas, dip the sponge in the water and cleaning vinegar solution as an extra boost of cleaning power. Dry the interior with a lint-free cloth and replace the glass turntable.

6. Use Coffee Grounds to Deodorize Drains



We thought we'd heard of just about every alternate use of coffee grounds, but here's one you're probably already benefiting from without knowing it: grounds make for a decent drain deodorizer.

Many, many commenters—some with stories, some who say they know plumbers—called out the de-clogging aspect of coffee grounds, especially without the addition of very hot water. Thinking more on it, I can't say I disagree. Coffee grounds are perhaps best used in small amounts to absorb bad-smelling, grease-based odors, but not as a clog clearing tool. My mistake, and apologies for putting out the wrong idea. I've updated the post headline and some of the text as a result.

Please take note of the mixed with hot water portion of that tip. A little Google-ing shows a good number of testimonials to the first idea, often in combination with very hot water, to both de-clog and improve the smell of your sink.

The second use was harder to vet, but it sounds like a nerdy challenge, trying to match your French Roast to your dark wood chair.

7. How To Get Red Wine Out Of Carpet?



Accidental spills can happen on about any flooring surface. But when you spill the red wine on your beloved carpet, it can prove to be a nightmare. This is because red wine stains are one of those stains that are quite hard to deal with. Removing them is difficult due to the

tannins present in wine. Plus, wine might be able to leave a permanent stain if it gets sufficient time to settle and scrubbing it will only make the problem worse.

This is why learning how you can get this type of stain out of the carpet properly is important. Typically, the faster you act to deal with the stain, the higher your chances of getting it out will be. This is why many homeowners prefer hiring end of lease cleaning Canberra professionals who also do carpet cleaning. But you can also remove the stain yourself if you act promptly. Here is how to get red wine out of the carpet. Use these methods to remove red wine stains.

1. Use Club Soda To Remove The Stain

Club soda is quite effective when it comes to removing red wine stains from the carpet. The carbonated water present in club soda can dilute the red wine. It breaks up the red pigment and makes it way simpler to blot. Start by using a paper towel or a clean cloth to blot up as much liquid as possible. Remember to alternate parts of the cloth so that you are blotting with a fresh spot each time.

Pour a tiny amount of club soda at a time onto the affected area and keep blotting. Swap out the cloth for a dry one as you work. Keep blotting till you cannot remove any more wine. Next, pour more club soda on the affected area and leave it overnight. Repeat the procedure the next day in case any stains remain. According to the professionals who offers the best end of lease cleaning Canberra, this method will help you get rid of the wine stain.

2. Mix Vinegar And Dish Soap



This mixture can prove to be ideal for removing red wine stains. Vinegar's acidic properties allow it to break up the tannins in red wine and neutralise the red and purple pigments. Start by blotting the stain. Next, combine 1 tablespoon of dish soap with 1 tablespoon of white vinegar and 2 cups of warm water.

Add the mixture to a spray bottle. Spray the solution onto the affected area while blotting with a white cloth or paper towel. Keep blotting till the wine stain disappears.

3. Utilise Baking Soda To Eliminate The Stain

Baking soda is another household item that you can use for cleaning and removing stains. It will allow you to get rid of stains without using chemicals. Baking soda is somewhat alkaline and abrasive, which makes it perfect for lifting stains. Here is the procedure you can follow:

- Use a clean white cloth to blot the stain.
- Pour some water on the affected area to dilute the stain and keep blotting until it almost dries out.
- Mix baking soda with water in a 3-to-1 ratio to prepare a paste.
- Apply the paste directly to the affected area and allow it to dry.
- Vacuum it up.

4. Combine Hydrogen Peroxide And Dish Soap



Hydrogen peroxide is a mild bleaching agent, which is why end of lease cleaning Canberra experts recommend testing it on a small area of your carpet to ensure it does not cause any damage. Again, start by blotting the stain. Next, combine about two parts hydrogen peroxide to one part dish soap. Apply the mixture to the affected area before blotting. Repeat the procedure until the stain is lifted and the carpet is clean.

5. Consider Using Salt

In case the stain has dried up, there is no need to panic. You can use a household item like salt to deal with the dried stains as well. However, it is always ideal to dilute the stain using water. So, begin by applying a small amount of water to the dried stain so that it gets wet. Next, add a tiny amount of salt to the affected area as well. Refrain from blotting or scrubbing the salt. Let it sit there overnight. The next morning, you will notice that the salt has a pinkish hue. Vacuum the salt. If you can still notice the stain, repeat the procedure.

6. Hire Professional Cleaners



It is a fact that you need persistence and patience to remove stains. However, if you are ready to dedicate enough time and effort to this task, the work can become easier. There are plenty of effective methods, such as the ones mentioned above, and using any of them will help you get rid of the red wine stains. In case you fail to remove the stain or do not have enough time for the task, it might be better to hire professionals who provide services like budget end of lease cleaning Canberra and carpet cleaning in Canberra. Doing so will be even more important if the stain has dried up. They have the ideal products to make your carpets return to their original condition.

Conclusion

In conclusion, integrating simple home hacks in Canberra and smart technology into your living space can significantly enhance your quality of life. From decluttering and optimizing storage to incorporating plants and energy-efficient lighting, these small changes create a more organized and serene environment. Additionally, embracing smart home technology provides convenience, security, and efficiency, making daily routines smoother and more enjoyable. By making these adjustments, you can transform your home into a more comfortable, efficient, and delightful space, ultimately improving your overall well-being.

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