

HOW TO ENHANCE THE VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY IN AUSTRALIA



ABSTRACT

If you own a property, chances are you're hoping it will one day be worth more than you paid for it. And while much about a property's value relies on things like location, population growth, infrastructure and the mercy of a fluctuating market, there are some things within your control that you can alter to increase your home's value.

It's often the smallest changes that have the biggest impact, so don't feel as though you have to undertake a full-scale renovation to make a return. In fact, when renovating for profit it's very important to avoid overcapitalising.

INTRODUCTION

Every homeowner in Australia wants to ensure they can get top dollar when selling their property. Even though market factors play a part in setting property values, homeowners can do many things to increase the value of their properties by following our 10 ways to boost its worth.

I. Investing in Your Home: How to Increase Home Value

According to a report, the cost to renovate a home in 2023 ranged from \$19,476 to \$86,538, with the average project totaling around \$51,076. At these prices, it only makes sense to optimize your home renovations so they increase the value of your property as much as possible.



Investing wisely in your home can yield a decent payday. When it's time to cash out through selling or refinancing your home, you'll reap the benefits of having more equity. This guide will demonstrate ways to increase your home value through carefully strategized renovations and upgrades.

1) Clean, Declutter, and Organize

One of the most inexpensive yet effective ways to add value to your home is simply cleaning and decluttering it. A clean home shows well and allows would-be buyers to see themselves living in your space.

“As a realtor, the first thing I always tell a seller to do is to simply declutter,” says Sherri Berry, a real estate agent and operations manager at MidSouth Construction. “This is free and will make any home appear larger.”

Putting yourself in the place of a prospective buyer means that a clean, organized home could be highly valued. Because these projects are extremely economical, the return on investment (ROI) can reach upward of 100%.

Here's a list of projects to consider:

1. **Pressure washing:** Focus on areas like siding, driveway, or the deck to enhance curb appeal.
2. **Window cleaning:** Clean windows allow more light into your home and give the impression that it is well-maintained.

3. **Garage decluttering:** A clean, organized garage looks good and can prepare your family to leave your home with less stress when it's time to sell.
4. **Deep carpet cleaning:** A deep carpet cleaning freshens up the look and feel of your home's interior and may improve indoor air quality.
5. **Bathroom grout cleaning and resealing:** Cleaning and resealing the grout can also give your bathroom a new look.

Berry notes why these projects are so practical: "We are selling square footage, so it makes the eye think the space is larger by simply decluttering the space."

2) Add Usable Square Footage

There are many ways to add space to your home, from adding another bathroom or bedroom to turning an area into an entire living space with a separate entrance. Regardless of the path you choose, you should be able to recoup your investment through a higher appraisal value, renting out the extra space for income, or both.

Some examples of high-ROI home renovations to add value to your home might include expanding your kitchen or finishing your basement. Adding a deck, patio, or terrace can be appealing to potential buyers who value al fresco lounging.

3) Make Your Home More Energy-Efficient

Shannon Feick owns a real estate investing firm, ASAP Properties, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He describes his clients' preferences regarding energy-efficient homes: "Lately, we've been meeting more buyers who are very interested in energy-saving upgrades and smart home technology. These systems can reduce utility costs and are very attractive to buyers."

Purchasing homewares with the Energy Star or the Energy Star Most Efficient label can save money and is better for the environment. These products, which can cover everything from appliances and electronics to doors and windows, are certified by organizations recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and must pass rigorous testing that proves these products are energy efficient and safe for the environment.

Another feature growing in popularity is solar panels, though it's best to get a full analysis to ensure that this is the right option based on where you live. Adding insulation to key areas of your home also increases your home's energy efficiency and saves money on cooling and heating bills.

It's worth mentioning that many of these energy-efficient upgrades have another benefit: You may be eligible for the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit, up to \$3,200, for qualified energy-efficient improvements to your home.

4) Upgrade the Kitchen and Bathrooms

According to the 2022 Remodeling Impact Report by the National Association of Realtors (NAR), a bathroom or kitchen remodeling will fetch an estimated cost recovery of 71% and 67%, respectively.



Even a light refreshment like painting cabinets, adding a backsplash, or updating lighting and plumbing fixtures can go a long way. You can also do more extensive or high-end upgrades, including high-quality flooring, stone countertops, cabinets, energy-efficient appliances, and modern fixtures.

5) Enhance Curb Appeal

Boosting your home's curb appeal can make your property look more attractive and add value.

Here is a list of ideas to consider:

- **Landscaping:** Ensure your lawn and garden spaces are neat and trimmed.
- **Exterior painting:** Add a fresh coat of paint to your home to make it look new and inviting.

- **Garage door and front door replacement:** These improvements offer a 102.7% and 100.9% cost recovery, respectively.⁵
- **Outdoor lounging area:** Add furnishings, lighting, and decorative elements to an area like a deck, patio, or covered space.

6) Install Smart Home Technology

The rising popularity of the Internet of Things (IoT) now allows homeowners to manage their homes while saving money and enhancing security.

Though there are plenty of smart devices for your home to choose from, deploy the ones that will add the most value for you and prospective buyers. For example, install smart devices that control your thermostat, main water shutoff valve, and electrical devices. Security systems that include cameras and water sensors can also add value to your home.

What Is the Cheapest Way to Add Value to My Home?

Inexpensive value-adding projects include deep cleaning and decluttering. Light home improvement projects include pressure washing siding or the driveway area, repainting interior and exterior walls, updating fixtures, and tidying up the yard.

What Home Improvements Can I Do Myself?

Common DIY home improvement projects include painting walls and cabinets, installing shelving, upgrading light or plumbing fixtures, and changing cabinetry hardware. Intermediate projects might include installing flooring or tiles for a backsplash.

When Is the Best Time to Renovate a Home?

Renovating your home when the weather permits can ensure minimal project interruptions. You should also time your renovation when you have enough money until completion or are at the point of selling or refinancing your home.

Renovating your living space can feel daunting with many unknowns. You may wonder if you'll reap the benefits of a more enjoyable space or a decent ROI when it's time to sell or refinance your home. Though nothing is guaranteed, you can still be strategic about this undertaking by focusing on improvements that increase your home's appraised value the most.

II. These Major Home Renovations Add Value

Which renovations increase home values the most? These remodeling ideas are the most likely to be worth your time and money.

Whether you're preparing for a move or simply looking to update your home, remodeling can be a huge undertaking—so it's important to know whether the reward will be worth the effort. Knowing which renovations will yield the highest return for your money is key, so that when it comes time to sell, you can demand a higher price.



Ultimately, you'll want to make the best home improvements to add value to your home. Before you decide on a remodel project, evaluate its cost versus its value, and decide if the renovation you want to do is a worthy investment of your time and money. So what renovations offer the biggest impact on a home's value?

Six experts weigh in on which projects are actually worth taking on. Here are the best home renovations for potentially raising the resale value of your home.

1. Create an Addition

As your family grows, why shouldn't your home? Consider building an addition to add major value to your home and increase square footage. Maximize your investment by selecting the perfect materials and details to enhance your home's value and character. "Any kind of physical expansion—whether it's a new bedroom, an extension of a living room, or whatever space you desire—has a huge impact," says Joe Rand, managing partner and general counsel at Better Homes & Gardens

Rand Realty. "If you can add square footage to a house, you always add value. Size matters!"

2. Redo Your Kitchen

The kitchen is the hub of the home, so functionality is a top priority. Remodeling a kitchen can be exciting and satisfying, especially when it's designed to meet your needs and desires. According to the National Association of the Remodeling Industry's 2019 remodeling impact report, Realtors estimate that homeowners can recover up to 52% of the cost of a kitchen upgrade upon selling the home.

"Updating the kitchen with new appliances and bathrooms with new plumbing fixtures may seem trivial, but it's a must," says Brad Carlton, sales associate. "Currently, there are many kitchen features that are trending in the Atlanta area, such as wine refrigerators, drawer-style microwaves and dishwashers, commercial-style ranges, and hidden outlets."

3. Renovate a Bathroom

An updated bathroom is a major selling point for any home. When renovating, incorporate sleek surfaces for a sparkling space that makes cleaning a cinch. According to the same report by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, Realtors estimate that homeowners can recover up to 57% of the cost of a bathroom renovation if they sell their home.

4. Update Your Home's HVAC

Your home's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) are the components that keep everything operating. These are some of the most critical items to maintain. In addition, Realtors estimate that homeowners can recover 85% of the cost of a HVAC replacement if they sell their home.



"Buyers are often taken aback when, upon inspection, a home's heater, air conditioner, and roof are found to be old or in poor shape," says Derek Whitner, Realtor, Team Whitner. "Studies have shown that millennials are unwilling to overlook old mechanicals, even if the seller is offering a home warranty as a way to compensate for the age of these systems."

5. Amplify Outdoor Living Space

Nothing beats the option of entertaining outdoors. An outdoor living space will make your home a relaxing destination for get-togethers and add major value. No matter your budget, there are plenty of ways to update your backyard, porch, or patio.

"Tap the outdoors for extra living space," says Mary Hutchison, senior sales executive. "In the old days, just about everyone had a front porch or screened-in area to shade themselves from the Midwestern heat, and these classic features are still in demand. A screened-in porch or backyard patio—especially one that includes an outdoor kitchen with a built-in grill and small fridge—makes a wonderful additional entertaining area."

6. Make Your Home More Accessible

Home renovations should be made with universal design principles in mind. That means creating a space for people of all ages, sizes, and physical abilities. Take careful inventory early in the planning process of all intended users' capabilities, preferences, and tastes.



"If it is possible to make your home more accessible, your home will be more welcoming to guests, more marketable to the largest audience, and best of all, you will be able to age in place," says Steinberg. "Do this by widening doorways, changing a main-level tub to a shower, clearing a path to a stepless entrance, or by adding a door to the back or side of your house."

7. Update Your Light Fixtures

Lighting is one of the simplest renovations that will add value to your home. You'll be amazed by how well-placed pools of warm light can make your home inviting and user-friendly. Consider the design, as well as function, when choosing the right light fixtures for your rooms.

"Updated styles of interior and exterior light fixtures are readily available at big box stores and online retailers for a bit of pocket change," says Robin Wolfram, Realtor/designer. "It can provide the big wow factor many homes would otherwise lack. If shopping online, be sure to look for any 'open box' pricing: an undamaged item that was returned simply because someone changed their mind."

III. 8 Best Smart Home Upgrades To Increase Home Value

What is Smart Home Technology?

Smart home technology refers to electronic devices that have smart capabilities including networking, communication, interactivity, and in some cases, AI and machine learning integrations. Smart home technology is a set of these devices that are designed specifically for home automation. Common smart home devices include smart versions of thermostats, appliances, security systems, lighting, entertainment and sound systems, and more. Typically, these devices have the ability to connect to wifi and you can often control them from your smartphone.

Is smart home tech safe?

Since many smart home gadgets are connect to the internet via WiFi, some homeowners have had doubts about the safety and security of the technology. Some top concerns include bugs, hackers, and privacy violations—but don't worry. Smart home technology has advanced rapidly, and there are several ways to keep your information safe even when your entire home is online.



Start by keeping your device software updated. Software updates often include added and updated security measures against the newest threats—so if there's an option to automatically update your device's software, opt in.

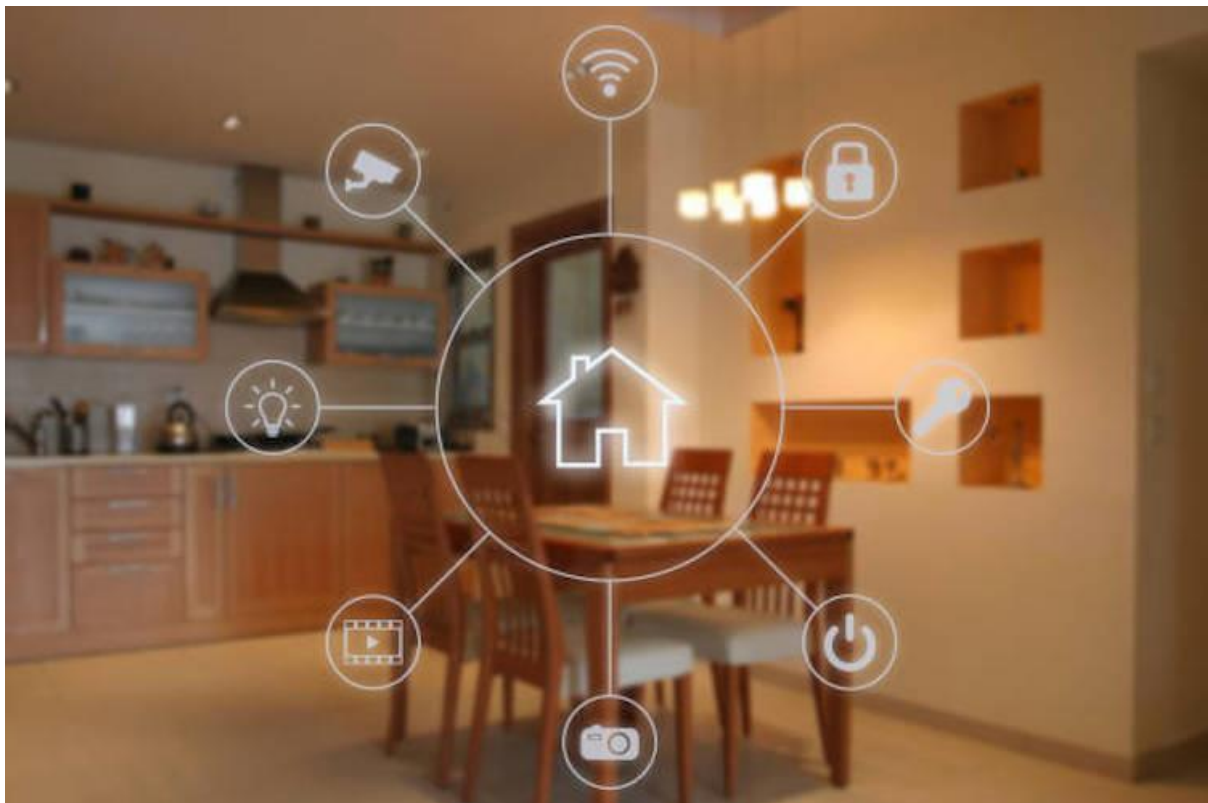
Next, be strict with your passwords. It's good practice to only buy devices that allow you to change the default device name and username and update the password regularly. Your password should be unique to that device only and complex enough

that it's hard to guess. You should also opt for multi-factor authentication when your device allows it.

Also—smart home or not—investing in a good router with a solid firewall will help prevent attacks on any device connected to your network. As an added security measure, consider keeping your smart devices on a secondary wifi network, sometimes called a guest network. On the off chance that one of your smart devices is infected, this will prevent the infection from spreading to your laptop, phone, and other devices that contain more private info.

Does smart home technology increase home value?

Absolutely, smart home technology can significantly increase your home's value. Think of it as adding a touch of futuristic magic that buyers crave. From smart security systems to energy-efficient thermostats that save money, these upgrades not only enhance convenience but also make your home stand out in a competitive market with prospective buyers.



According to experts, homes equipped with smart tech like video surveillance, smart security, smart lighting, thermostats, and solar panels can fetch higher home sale prices. Appraisers now consider these features, instantly boosting your home's appraisal value. So, embrace the smart revolution – it's not just an upgrade, it's a value-boosting investment in your home's future.

How will smart home technology increase my home value?

Recently, the Council singled out smart home products as “one of the most desirable qualities in a home on the market.” Buyers want it, and in many cases, they’re willing to pay extra.

Smart homes stand out among the competition in any market, their convenience and modernity selling them faster and at higher prices than their non-smart counterparts. But the added value isn’t just for when you’re negotiating with a buyer. Smart home tech from reputable smart home brands is actually factored into home appraisals and comparative market analyses these days, so you’ll see the value bump right away (even before you list!).

Here are some of the best smart tech upgrades you can make for your own enjoyment and for a higher price when you sell.

#1: Smart Security Systems With Video Doorbells

Smart security systems with video doorbells are the pinnacle of modern protection for your home, seamlessly integrating various smart devices into a comprehensive, interconnected setup. Smart door locks enhance security by eliminating the need for physical keys, while advanced video doorbells provide real-time alerts and video calls when visitors approach. Instant motion notifications from smart cameras and the ability to arm, disarm, and monitor alarms remotely via your smartphone offer unparalleled flexibility and control, empowering you even when you're away.

#2: Smart Locks

Smart locks are innovative security devices that offer homeowners the convenience of keyless entry and remote access control. By connecting to a smartphone app via Wi-Fi, homeowners can lock or unlock their doors from anywhere, grant temporary access to guests, and receive notifications of any door activity.

These modern locks not only enhance security but also increase a home's appeal by showcasing its advanced technology and providing potential buyers with the assurance of improved safety and seamless control, ultimately boosting the home's overall value on the market.

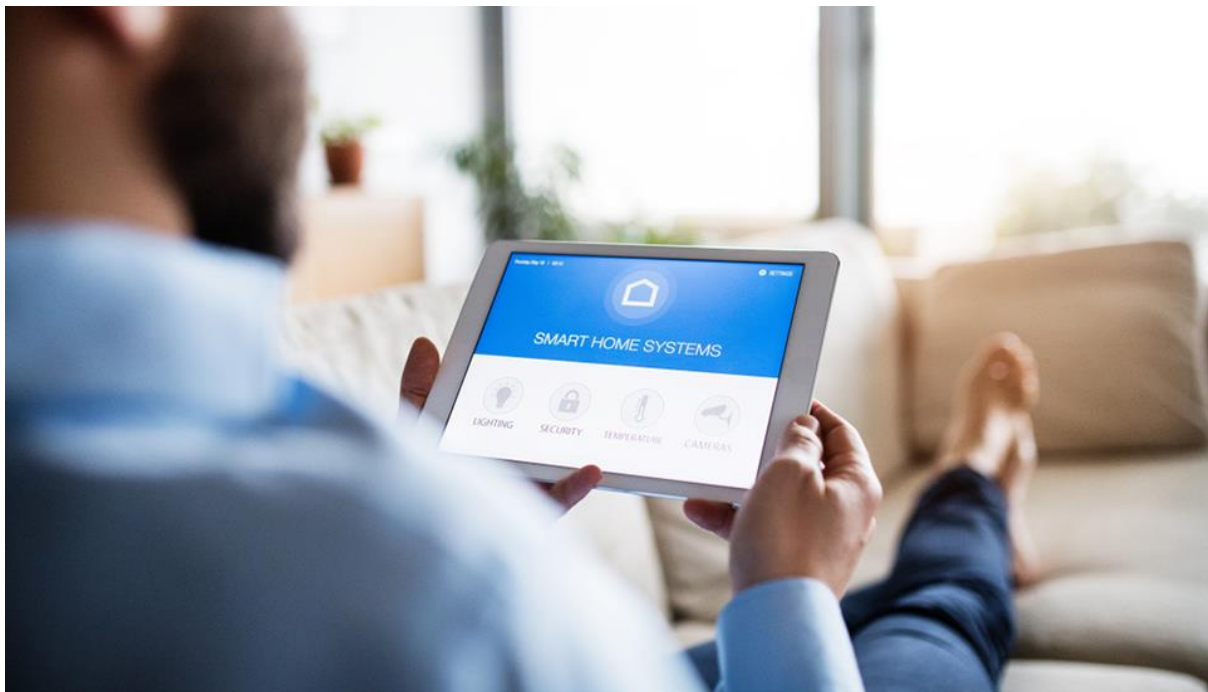
#3: Smart appliances

Smart appliances work the same way as other smart devices in that you can usually control them from your phone. For example, if you have a smart oven, you can turn it on and off and monitor and change the temperature, even if you aren’t home. No more wishing there was someone at home to turn the oven on for you, and no

reason to worry about whether or not you left it on when you've already left the house

Similarly, smart washers and dryers let you start them remotely as well as monitor the progress of the cycle. Smart refrigerators can provide recipes and ingredient lists as well as integrating with grocery delivery apps on your phone, while smart dishwashers allow you to start, stop, and change the cycle remotely. You can also access maintenance advice to most smart appliances on your phone, which makes repair easier.

A smart plug can act as a convenient intermediary, enabling your traditional appliances to join the realm of smart technology by allowing remote control and automation through your smartphone or voice commands.



#4: Smart thermostats

A programmable **smart thermostat** lets you set temperature controls based on your daily routine, weather conditions, and more. Operate them through your smartphone, adjusting home temperature remotely, and many can even sync with your phone's location feature for automatic changes. For instance, if your thermostat detects you've left home, it can ease up on the AC, lowering energy bills. Smart thermostats can also be programmed for specific temperature schedules and many maintain a steady indoor temperature range, saving money and conserving energy.

With apps like Google Nest Hub, you take the reins of your programmable thermostat. You can fine-tune temperatures, establish schedules, and manage

compatible devices through voice commands or a tap on your phone. This elevates home comfort and highlights modern tech to potential buyers, enhancing allure and potentially boosting your property's value. Additionally, when paired with a smart air purifier, it contributes to indoor air quality, making your home even more appealing.

#5: Smart Speakers

Smart speakers, such as Amazon Echo, Google Nest Audio, Sonos, and Apple Homepod are indispensable additions to your smart home upgrades, seamlessly integrating into your chosen smart home platform.

With voice assistants like Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant that are akin to virtual assistants, you'll be empowered with a range of new capabilities, from controlling other smart devices to answering queries.

New smart audio systems have great built-in speakers that offer impressive audio quality while also serving as a central hub for your other smart home hub functionalities. Plus, you can manage them conveniently via a mobile app, making them an essential element in your array of smart home enhancements.

IV. An outdoor living space could add value to your home

Despite unpredictable weather, Brits love an 'outroom' – and it looks like we could reap the financial benefits



The hottest summer on record saw most Britons whiling away the days (when we weren't at work) outside, sitting on deckchairs fished out from the back of our garden sheds.

But for many people, months of sunshine and very few showers presented an opportunity to transform their gardens into rooms of their own – also known as 'outrooms'.

Since this summer, online searches have spiked across the outdoor home sector, with terms like 'outdoor rug', 'outdoor cushions' and 'outdoor sofa' increasing by as much as 34 per cent.

Bi-fold doors are by far one of the most popular ways to create an indoor-outdoor link. A recent survey conducted by Origin among its customers showed that 94 per cent of homeowners use the space differently in their properties after installing bi-fold doors.

Ben Brocklesby, director at Origin, says: 'An outroom can add a huge amount of functional living space to a home, whether that's an additional seating area, dining room or even a second kitchen.'



Quirk adds: 'A combination of unaffordability and uncertain market conditions has seen an increase in the number of people building up, down and out, rather than upsizing to a new property.'

'While basements and loft conversions are an obvious way to add value and space to your property, they can be expensive, so extending into a garden space can also help boost your property potential, creating a stylish living space in the process.'

V. How Professional Cleaning Can Boost Your Property Value

Every property has its own charm that gets accentuated by proper cleaning and sanitisation. An unkempt and dirty residence not only turns people away but also becomes a breeding ground for allergies and ailments. The significance of house cleaning grows immensely when the property is up for sale or lease.

Thus, homeowners must ensure the real estate is in pristine condition to attract quality tenants and buyers. The condition of the property is pivotal in determining its rental value or asking price.



This is the reason why landlords book services offered by professional end of lease cleaning Sydney businesses to spruce up their properties for staging purposes. A spick-and-span residence instantly grabs the attention of lessees and buyers and makes them agree to pay a higher price.

Let us help you understand how professional cleaning can boost property value. It can help you prepare the real estate for inspection effectively.

Reduced Workload During Moving

Prospective buyers and tenants will readily agree to pay a higher price for the property if it is immaculately clean. It ensures that they will not have to do the cleaning before moving into the house, saving the cost of hiring professionals. They can also save the cost by cleaning the house themselves, but it can be extremely tiring.

Taking up the responsibility of cleaning when they have other tasks to complete during the relocation is the last thing on their minds. Thus, they do not mind paying a few extra dollars for a well-kept and hygienic house.

An Inviting Space For Everyone

A property reeking of bad odours and laden with dust and filth will not get the price expected from sale or lease, even if it is well-built and has all the amenities. Dirty floors and stinking toilets can make even the most luxurious homes look like a shanty.



Conversely, a small house with minimal features can attract the best of buyers if it is cleaned meticulously from top to bottom. A welcoming space that exudes the vibe of a cosy home will get leased instantly at a higher rental value. Thus, hiring experienced cleaners matters when selling or leasing the property to get the best price from the deal.

Improved Curb Appeal Of The House

Booking end of lease cleaning Sydney professionals for house cleaning ensures the property is all set for staging. They remove dirt, allergens, grease and filth from every nook and cranny to prepare the real estate for a thorough inspection. The potential buyers evaluate the property with the help of a professional, who will quickly identify hidden dirty spots.

However, expert cleaners are aware of the hard-to-reach areas in the house and clean them perfectly, such as glass door tracks and ceiling fans. It helps to highlight the attractive features of the house and get a good price through its sale or leasing.

Cleaning Is Equal To Maintenance

A clean property is considered to be well-maintained because of the psychological impact made by it. Systematic and careful cleaning by end of lease cleaners in Sydney ensures the landlord does not need a staging professional. It makes the onlookers feel that the real estate is in optimum condition and has been preserved by the previous owner or tenant. They feel assured that the house will not have any damage or structural problems because of its stunning outward appearance.



Thus, they feel they will not have to spend anything on repairs or renovation and can start living in the house as soon as possible. It helps to increase the property value and get a premium price.

Sanitisation Ensures Good Health

Most potential tenants and buyers are sceptical about the hygiene levels of the property because others have inhabited it. The kitchen and the bathrooms must appear spotless to drive away the fears of buyers. Professional cleaners are trained in sanitising high-traffic areas to maintain optimum hygiene levels. They eliminate all the germs and filth from the real estate with the help of organic cleaning solutions.

Thus, the kitchen appliances are ready for cooking and promise healthy living to the new occupiers. A disinfected house does not need pest control or mould removal services, which helps to increase its value.

Enhanced Images And Virtual Tours

Homeowners have to advertise their real estate for sale or lease, which requires clicking excellent pictures and creating virtual tours for social media marketing. The pandemic has increased the popularity of 3D walkthroughs to give prospective buyers and lessees a glimpse of the property from the comfort of their homes.

A spotless property helps to create brilliant images and videos that can attract buyers and tenants and bring thousands of leads. With high demand for the house, the landlord can increase the property value without any hassle by hiring budget end of lease cleaners in Sydney.



Leasing or buying a well-maintained and orderly house is every individual's dream. They can pay a higher price for a house that meets their expectations in terms of size, utilisation of space and features. In addition, cleaning is the most vital aspect of property inspection. A professionally cleaned house can boost property value considerably.

VI. How To Clean Your Home Like A Professional



Cleaning your home requires a certain amount of skill to get it right. While you can vacuum the floors and mop every inch of your home, odds are you're missing a key strategy to make it as easy as possible. And though everyone has their own cleaning schedule, here's an expert guide on cleaning your house from top to bottom.

Have A Stain On Your Carpet?

Find top-rated carpet cleaning contractors that will keep your carpets clean and healthy and help them look new again. See how professional cleaning services can transform your home or business.

- Start Simple

To help you figure out how to get started, we talked to James King, operations manager at Deluxemaids in Indianapolis. "It is best to start with the room that is used the least and work your way through to the room that is used the most," he

recommends. This will help to ensure that the dirt and dust kicked up during cleaning are not deposited in the more frequently used areas.

- Work From Top to Bottom

King recommends a top-to-bottom cleaning approach starting with the ceiling and focusing on areas of the house we should clean but usually don't like our walls. "Dust the ceiling with a dry cloth or broom to remove loose debris and dust," he told Forbes Home.

From there, you can move to the walls. King suggests using mild detergent and water to wipe down the walls and remove any dirt.

Finally, King recommends cleaning the floors. "Begin by removing any debris or larger objects from the floor, such as toys or furniture; you clear the path to make vacuuming easier," says King. For best results, clean the floor twice a week or as needed if you have a high-traffic household (pets and children).

- Focus on the Bedroom

As you move to the bedroom, the first thing on your mind should be decluttering – this involves removing all clothes, shoes and other items that don't belong in the bedroom. "As you vacuum or sweep the floors, make an effort to get into all the corners of the room and under the bed," explains King.



Dust all surfaces, including the room's furniture, bedside tables and other decorative items. Make the bed and change the linens if necessary. "Clean the windows, window frames and any other reflective surfaces. This is another area professional cleaners never overlook."

- Take Your Time in the Bathroom

Like the bedroom, remove any clutter and debris like dirty towels, clothes and other items that don't belong in the bathroom before you start cleaning, recommends King.

Gather all of your cleaning supplies and spray the toilet, sink, counter and faucet. Once you have the easy items out of the way, move to the shower or bathtub. "Don't forget the cabinets," says King. "The cabinets are where we tend to stuff all the clutter in our bathrooms, but they're also prone to grime and product spills, so try to account for some time to clean them."

Remember that different cleaning solutions may be needed depending on your shower or bathtub type. Avoid using abrasive cleaning products on surfaces such as countertops, showers and tubs to avoid damaging them.

- Declutter Your Living Room

The living room is an important family area where many family members spend most of their time. Declutter and dust surfaces such as tables, shelves and knick-knacks. Use a microfiber cloth or a damp rag to wipe down surfaces.

While cleaning your living room, King says to remember to disinfect high-touch areas such as doorknobs, light switches and remote controls. We forget to clean these common areas, but professionals often tend to for a complete cleaning job.

- Leave the Kitchen for Last

Since the kitchen is a high-traffic area that will likely get dirty a couple of hours, if not minutes, after you finish cleaning, King suggests you leave this room for last. Instead of cleaning what you can see, King says professional cleaners will clear the countertop and sink dishes to get a clear view of all the dirt and grime.



“Get rid of all the counter appliances to make it easier for you to get into every corner,” says King. The same goes for your cabinets and refrigerator. “Remove all food and shelving to wipe down the interior with an all-purpose cleaner; this is the only way to clean these kitchen areas truly,” he adds.

“Get into the habit of lightly cleaning and organizing your kitchen after each use; do a more deep cleaning at least once a week,” King recommends.

- **Do Make Time for Deep Cleaning**

A deep clean means taking a hard look at the parts of your home you often forget even need to be cleaned. It’s important to focus on those hard-to-reach spots that don’t get dusted and vacuumed quite as often. This will be any ledges, high windows, light fixtures and above your cabinets.

To start, Peterson recommends getting the following supplies:

- Disposable rags, scrub pads or towels that can be tossed
- Two buckets: one for dirty water and one for clean water
- Degreaser, soap and disinfectant spray
- Rubber gloves
- Something abrasive that you can scrub with
- A spray bottle filled with equal parts water and vinegar
- A scrubbing brush

Take the time to vacuum the window sills and tracks for your windows. “Don’t forget about those blinds either; feel free to spray them with vinegar and scrub them,” says Peterson.

Hire Experts For Your Upholstery Cleaning Needs!

While you’re there, Peterson says to take the proper time to take apart your couches and vacuum underneath the cushions. “Take the furniture attachments that come with your vacuum to remove dust from the surface and ensure you get every cushion,” says Peterson. “That’s what differentiates professional cleaning from regular tidying up,” she adds.

Peterson also shared a pro tip to make your furniture look cleaner for longer: Dust normally for wood furniture and then massage with furniture oil using a cloth. Always be sure to rub with the grain. Oils can be used on both finished and unfinished wood.

While deep cleaning involves a lot of effort, most people only need to deep clean their houses once every season. If you keep a structured cleaning schedule, this shouldn’t be a problem.

CONCLUSION

If you are thinking about selling, attending open houses in your area and speaking to agents will give you a good sense of what buyers are seeking out and a chance to gather ideas on how best to style and present your own home for sale. An open house can be an ideal way to determine if an agent is attentive and follows up effectively with potential buyers, so as you look to sell your home you need the most qualified sales agent possible.

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