

Brilliant Home Hacks To Make Life Easy



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Abstract

Transform your daily routine with these brilliant home hacks that simplify life and boost efficiency. From clever storage solutions to everyday time-savers, these tips are designed to make your home more organized and stress-free. Maximize space by using tension rods in cabinets for easy-access cleaning supplies, or repurpose old jars for chic and functional storage. Speed up your laundry routine by tossing a dry towel in the dryer to reduce drying time, or use a lint roller to quickly clean lampshades and upholstery. These simple yet effective hacks will streamline your chores, leaving you more time to enjoy the things you love.



1. Introduction

Make your home life smoother with these ingenious hacks that turn ordinary tasks into effortless routines. Keep cords and cables tidy by labeling them with washi tape or bread clips, ensuring you'll never unplug the wrong device again. Save space in your fridge by using binder clips to stack bottles horizontally, freeing up room for other essentials. Banish odors from your garbage disposal by freezing lemon slices in vinegar and running them through the disposal for a refreshing clean. These smart tips not only make your home more organized but also add a touch of creativity to your everyday life.

2. DIY Home Improvement Hacks



Homeownership has its rewards. It also comes with a long list of things to do to keep the home in working order or improve our surroundings. Calling a contractor to repair or improve every single thing gets expensive fast. What if there were a way to know what they know about home improvement? Look no further. Here are 17 of the best time and money-saving home improvement and care hacks in Sydney that only a contractor would know about.

1. Maintenance Works

Maintain everything to keep the expensive repair pros away. The single best way to save money around the house is by sticking to a maintenance schedule for as many of your home's systems as possible. Creating a schedule to keep up with HVAC, plumbing, smoke alarm, landscaping, cleaning, roofing and appliance maintenance tasks or inspections will alert you of when they need repair before the problem gets bigger.

More importantly, when trouble is found early, the odds of being able to DIY fix it cheaply go way up.

2. New Lighting Is Cheap and Effective

You may not even need to remodel your home. If you're on a budget that won't currently allow pursuing a home remodel, but you're still in need of a change, changing a few light

fixtures could save the day. Modern lighting is relatively inexpensive, and you can put it anywhere with the advent of things like LED rope lighting. Spend a few hundred dollars on lighting instead of many thousands on tearing the place apart and putting it back together.

3. Create Color the Cheap Way

Home renovation costs keep going up. Color trends and styles come and go. The bright, colorful wallpaper that had been popular now has to go. So too does the blush-pink plastic tile. Renovate your home using primarily neutral colors on walls, floors and ceilings. Add color with furniture and accents that are far less expensive to replace later when they fall out of favor.

4. You Can Do Some Plumbing Repairs



Take the mystery out of simple plumbing repairs. Not every clogged drain or drippy faucet needs professional plumbing help. With a few inexpensive tools, an informational article or two and a little patience, you'll be surprised how simple some of the fixes really are.

5. Have Emergency Money Available

Home appliances and home mechanical systems are expensive enough. Set enough easily-available emergency money aside, even if you're sure that nothing will ever break, to cover the costs. Having to buy whatever is available in an emergency, and paying financing charges and interest on top, will only drive up the cost of stuff you already don't want to buy.

6. Energy-Saving Appliances Are Worth It

Energy-Star ratings aren't just a sales tactic. For products to be rated as Energy-Star certified, they have to meet strict high-efficiency standards and don't cost much more than unrated products. The number of kinds of certified products today is vast. You're sure to find something in your price range that will save even more on your energy bill.

7. Have an Energy Audit Done

Many utility companies provide free energy audits for their customers' homes. However, you'll have to spend a few hundred dollars for a company to do one in some places. Even newly constructed homes can see huge benefits from having an energy audit performed.

An audit simply tells you what you can do to improve the energy efficiency of your house. What you do with that information is up to you. But, following the advice presented in the audit results can save tons of money on future energy bills.

8. Storage Spaces Are Everywhere



Think outside the storage facility box. Renting storage spaces for things that you only use occasionally can get costly. Likely, the storage you need is already in your home. Look in places like the garage ceiling rafters, attics, crawl spaces or under stairwells.

It's probably less expensive and certainly more convenient to install a backyard shed or hire a handyperson to create access to hidden places in your house than renting space long-term.

9. Don't Hide the Plumbing Valves

A common DIY home-improvement mistake, especially when finishing a basement, is making access to essential plumbing valves difficult. When you remodel, leave space or an access door to the main water valve, exterior spigot valves, water heater valves and any others your home may have. Easy access could come in handy in an emergency.

10. Keep Your Gutters Clean

The rain gutters on your house are more than just convenient. They're essential for keeping your home's foundation free from excess water stress. Your foundation already has a big job to do holding up the house. The quantity of water in a small rainfall event is surprisingly massive. Dirty or clogged gutters allow water to spill over the edges and possibly too close to the foundation, which could create problems even if the landscaping slopes away from the house as it should.

12. Keep Trees and Shrubs Away From the House

While we're on the foundation subject, your landscaping can impact the well-being of the home's footing when tree and shrub roots get too close. If planting trees and shrubs are part of your DIY landscaping plan, be sure that the type you want has foundation-friendly roots and plant them well away from the house.

11. You Can Sell Almost Anything



With the advent of the internet came new opportunities to get rid of stuff—namely, house fixtures for sale on neighborhood websites. Recent years have seen an increase in the recycling or upcycling of household goods and fixtures. If you're remodeling your home, you'll likely have plenty to send to the landfill. You can rethink how you get rid of it, save some disposal costs and maybe make a few dollars selling reusable items. You may even find a use for some of it yourself.

3. Kitchen Hacks That Will Change Your Life



Ever feel like you're juggling too many things in the kitchen? If you're looking for ways to make life easier in the kitchen, this article with the best kitchen hacks is just for you.

1. Make Your Greens Last Longer

So you can get the most out of the life out of asparagus, spinach, and mesclun, fill a plastic box with paper towels. Buy Boxed Salad and reuse the same plastic box.

A paper towel will absorb excess moisture on the Green leaf as well as keeping leaves from falling off and breaking up.

The plastic container is also a good way to keep leaves from getting crushed within the container.

2. Keep Brown Sugar Soft

Brown sugar should be stored for the best quality to prevent it from hardening to be cooked: bakers love this sweet treat. Ensure a tightly sealed box or plastic bag so that moisture does not penetrate.

Next use Real Simple's tip and mix a couple of marshmallows into Brown Sugar.

You could also try and use traditional methods like bread slices instead.

3. Use A Spoon To Skin A Kiwi

This trick works best if you have kiwis that have ripened (not rock hard). Slide a spoon under the skin and run it through the skin. You can slip your skin off!

Then just slice and serve that with any possible ingredient, and even a piece of ripe Kiwi – if desired. Use this trick when you have plenty of ripe Kiwi.

4. Grill Fish On Top Of Citrus



To keep fish from sticking to the pan or grill, fry on a plate of fresh citrus.

Try salmon slices on lemon slices or sole on orange slices. For a more intense flavor try salmon on lemon slices or sole as opposed to salmon with olive and lime slices.

5. Use Dental Floss For Cutting

Dental floss can cut cakes and sweet cheeses and other items better than a knife can. Uses include using it to lift meat from a cookie sheet or pulling stuck dough from the countertop.

Perhaps you'll actually try it between your teeth a minute later. But you should always leave it around your kitchen.

6. Clean Your Grill With An Onion

Texas grill maestros have relied on a completely natural remedy. Cut an onion into two parts and move it up and away with a fork.

Take care if it is hot on the grill to help it cool off a bit. An all-natural remedy can be used with a brush to clean off the grill scraps.

7. Boil Water Faster

Put the lid over the kettle while the water is heating. Assume you use only enough water.

The longer the water boils the slower it takes. The best way of getting a really good boiling is to use an electric kettle before you switch to a pot.

8. Slice Potatoes With an Apple Slicer

Reuse apple slicers to create potato slicers. Peel potatoes and cut them for southwest steak fries.

Apple slicers are perfect for thick-cut potato fries, but you can also cut the slices in half for regular fries.

9. Get Avocados To Ripen Faster

You can improve the ripening by sealing avocados in paper containers. To help speed it up add a banana to your bag. Both fruits produce ethylene to promote ripeness.

This will not work overnight, but it is notably quicker than leaving them in a bowl.

10. Make Bacon With a Waffle Iron

Alton Brown offers this method on how to perfectly cook bacon in the same package without sticking grease. Set a waffle iron in very hot heat then place bacon thinly strips on a griddle.

Close lids and warm for 2.5 minutes. Move bacon and cook another 1/2 hour until time runs out. The result: nice crisp bacon with enough fat remaining for cooking Hash browns.

11. Separate Egg Yolk From Whites With a Bottle

Put boiled eggs and cold water under a bowl of hot water, then cover the opening part. Shake vigorously on the sink.

When everyone comes across you and looks like you've lost it, take the shell from a moving eggshell and remind them that there is a thin line between genius and foolishness.

12. Cut Meat Into Thin Slices For Stir-Fries

Does your stir-fry ever really look the same as when you ordered takeout?

While slicing veggies is easy, beef or chicken can be tough to produce without an infomercial knife—unless you partially freeze it first. Freezing for 30 minutes should do the trick.

Peel Garlic the Easy Way

Smash garlic cloves with a bowl and shake until you feel dizzy. So they separate cloves within each other.

Then everything you need is to shovel everything on that empty counter and take everything you need.

14. Two Ways to Peel a Hard-Boiled Egg

Put a pressure pin into the end of the eggs before boiling them. If baking soda is in the water it makes the egg easier to peel. Believe us it's weird, but it works.

15. Use a Wooden Spoon to Keep Pots From Boiling Over

It is a mystery how things have to work in this world. Does wood absorb steam? Yes. Boiling over is a hazard that can be controlled with the use of wooden spoons.

4. Cleaning Hacks for a Tidier Space in No Time



Our clever cleaning hacks help take the work out of your chore list by saving time and energy. Use household tools meant for other tasks to get your space spotless in no time. Tuck these ideas into your bag of tricks for an immaculate and fresh home.

Remove Pet Hair with Rubber Gloves

As much as we love our four-legged friends, pet hair can accumulate quickly. Skip spending extra money on tools and special attachments and use this simple cleaning hack in Sydney to pick up after your fur babies. Simply wear rubber household gloves and run them over the surface of your furniture. The rubber will cause the pet fur to gather into a ball that can be easily thrown away.

Steam-Clean Your Microwave

Place a bowl of lemon juice in your microwave and set the microwave for 2 minutes or until the lemon juice comes to a boil. This cleaning hack will produce steam to soften any debris stuck in the microwave. You'll be able to clean out the appliance with just the swipe of a cloth, plus you'll be left with a citrusy fresh scent.

Remove Wine Stains from Carpet



Wine is known to be one of the toughest stains to remove. Luckily, club soda can be a saving grace. Start by spritzing the stain with club soda. Next, blot the wine, juice, or colored drink stain with a microfiber cloth. Repeat until the stain is gone.

Clean Cabinets with a Vacuum

Your vacuum can be a helpful tool for cleaning hard-to-reach cabinet areas. Use your vacuum's brush attachment to pick up dust and crumbs inside. Debra Johnson from Merry Maids suggests this cleaning hack in Sydney for the outside of the cabinets: wipe the area around the hardware with a cloth dampened with warm water and Murphy Oil Soap.

Use Your Dishwasher to Clean Light Fixtures

Did you know some light fixture pieces are dishwasher-safe? Amanda Thomas of Moxie Girl suggests running removable glass pieces, such as domes, through the dishwasher for this cleaning hack. Run a drying cycle to reduce spots on your light fixtures.

Correct Common Cleaning Mistakes

Believe it or not, there is a wrong way to clean. But, by doing things the right way, you could save time—and the hassle of re-cleaning. Check out these house cleaning hacks to perfect your technique and shave minutes off your cleaning routine.

Use a Pillowcase to Clean a Ceiling Fan



Leslie Reichert of Green Cleaning Coach shares one of her favorite cleaning hacks for dusting a ceiling fan quickly and efficiently. Slip a pillowcase over ceiling fan blades, one at a time, then wipe. This way, dust falls into the pillowcase, not on your furniture and floors.

Clean with What You Have

Skip buying new items for cleaning hacks using what you already have. The things you need to clean might be lying around your house. Watch and see how to tidy up using everyday items you wouldn't immediately think of as cleaning tools.

Use Socks to Clean Blinds

This cleaning hack from Melissa Maker of Clean My Space uses socks as a duster. First, put an old sock on one of your hands and spritz it with water. Then, grip each blind panel and slide your sock-covered hand from one end to the other, removing dust from both sides of the slat.

Learn the Trick to Cleaning Faster

The key to cleaning more quickly might be cleaning more often. You'll spend less time overall when you stick to a regular schedule. Watch this video from cleaning expert Donna Smallin Kuper to learn her best tips for quicker cleaning.

Use a Paint Roller to Clean Ceilings

Ceilings, especially textured ones, can be a pain to clean. Sweeping them with a broom can knock down light fixtures if you're not careful. Roll a damp high-nap paint roller over the ceiling to pick up dust and cobwebs for a more effective cleaning hack in Sydney.

Spot-Clean Fabrics with Baby Wipes



Baby wipes are surprisingly effective because they contain very little moisture, have gentle cleaning agents, and dry quickly. That's why Derek Christian from Cleaning Business Today suggests using them for spots and stains on fabrics. However, don't confuse baby wipes with cleaning wipes, which might contain bleach or other harmful chemicals.

Use Tennis Balls to Launder Comforters

Washing a bulky comforter can be a tricky business. Amanda Thomas of Moxie Girl says you can machine-wash most comforters in front-loaders, as long as the comforter fills only half the washer. Then, add tennis balls to the dryer to keep the comforter's stuffing from collecting in one corner.

Clean Window Treatments Faster

Keep window treatments on the rod to save time as you clean. Instead of taking them down, use the cleaning hack of just shaking them out to remove loose dust. Then, vacuum drapes or curtains from top to bottom using the upholstery attachment. Finally, vacuum floors after cleaning window treatments to pick up any fallen dust.

Have Your Kids Clean Your Mattress

Jumping on the bed can help freshen up your mattress. Mary Findley of Go Clean suggests a fun house cleaning hack: Have your kids bounce around on the bed to bring up dust from inside. Then vacuum the mattress top. (If your vacuum has a beater bar, turn the bar off first.)

4.1. What is Cloudy Ammonia? How to Use it For Cleaning?



Most of the commercial cleaning products nowadays contain ammonia. This is because it can clean microwaves, floors, and ovens that have burned-on food. Because ammonia is highly alkaline, it can easily cut through dirt, tough stains, grease and grime. There is also cloudy ammonia that many homeowners use for house cleaning. This is because it is a versatile cleaning agent.

In fact, it has been used in households and commercial settings for decades now. The major difference between the cloudy ammonia and ammonia is their composition.

Ammonia is a compound which is made from hydrogen and nitrogen. On the other hand, cloudy ammonia is a soap-added ammonia. Ammonia is one of those chemical compounds that is widely produced in the chemical industry.

However, cloudy ammonia is primarily used in domestic cleaning. Learning about it and the best way to use it can help you a lot. In this guide we will go over what cloudy ammonia is and how you can use it for cleaning. It will help you use it in the best way.

1. What is Cloudy Ammonia?

Put simply, cloudy ammonia is prepared by combining ammonia with soap. It is also referred to as "sudsy ammonia". In terms of appearance, it is typically a grey-coloured or cloudy-white solution.

According to the end of lease cleaning Sydney professionals, cloudy ammonia is a hazardous chemical. It is typically used to produce things like fertilisers, plastics, pharmaceuticals, etc.

It is not recommended to use it directly since that can cause health issues. It might be better to add a soap solution to make it worthy of usage. If you can manage to do it, cloudy ammonia can certainly prove to be the ideal cleaner to deal with dirt and grime. In fact, cloudy ammonia is commonly used as a domestic cleaning agent.

2. What is the Difference Between Ammonia and Cloudy Ammonia?

In simple terms, ammonia is a clear solution, and it is also referred to as non-sudsy or clear ammonia. On the flip side, cloudy ammonia is certainly not clear, and it is referred to as sudsy ammonia. The most evident difference between the two, as mentioned above, is their composition. Ammonia is made up of hydrogen and nitrogen and cloudy one is a soap-added ammonia.

Additionally, ammonia has pure ammonia without impurities while cloudy ammonia is ammonia that has soap. As for their cleaning properties, you can think of ammonia as an all-purpose cleaner and cloudy ammonia as an effective cleaning agent for tough dirt. Furthermore, ammonia has plenty of different uses other than cleaning, while cloudy ammonia is purely a cleaning agent.

3. How to Clean With Cloudy Ammonia?

Cloudy ammonia is a strong cleaning solution that you can use to complete a variety of household cleaning tasks. Here is how to use it for cleaning:

Make a Diluted Solution

It is true that cloudy ammonia is highly concentrated, which is why professionals who do budget end of lease cleaning Sydney recommend diluting it before using it. Simply combine one part of cloudy ammonia with about three parts of water in either a bucket or spray bottle. This dilution will guarantee that the agent is strong enough for the cleaning tasks while decreasing the risk of causing any damage to the surfaces.

It is worth noting that you should never mix cloudy ammonia with bleach or any cleaning product because that can produce dangerous fumes.

Take the Necessary Safety Precautions



It is best recommended to wear personal protective equipment like rubber gloves not only when using cloudy ammonia but also when using any type of cleaning agent. It will help you avoid issues like skin irritation. Also, ensure there is proper ventilation.

Use Cloudy Ammonia for General Surface Cleaning

Start with spraying the diluted solution directly on the surface you are looking to clean. Allow it to sit there for a few minutes so that it cuts through dirt and grime. Use a moist cloth or sponge to wipe the surface clean. Rinse thoroughly with clean water. Finally, use a clean cloth to dry the surface.

Clean Glass and Mirror With the Diluted solution

Spray the solution directly on the mirror or glass surface. Make use of a newspaper or lint-free cloth to wipe the surface. Remember to use circular motions. Buff using a dry cloth for the best results. According to end of lease cleaning Sydney experts, using a diluted cloudy ammonia solution is perfect for cleaning glass and mirrors.

Use Cloudy Ammonia to Clean the Floors

Start by adding cloudy ammonia to the mop water. It is perfect for cleaning linoleum or tiled floors. Mop the floor surface just like how you would normally do, making sure there is no excess moisture. Let the floor air dry.

Clean Bathroom and Kitchen With the Solution

Finally, professionals who do cheap end of lease cleaning Sydney recommend using the diluted solution to clean the bathroom and kitchen. Apply the solution to the fixtures, sinks, and countertops. Use a sponge or soft brush to scrub the tough stains and grease. Rinse with water. Finally, dry the surfaces to reduce the chances of water spots.

5. Gardening Hacks to Help You Get Growing



There is no shortage of gardening hacks online. If taken seriously, these hacks supposedly perform miracles in feeding your plants (banana water or sugar water anyone?), getting rid of pests, or halting weeds. But often, these homemade concoctions do more harm than good.

However, there are gardening hacks in Sydney that do work. Here's a list of proven gardening hacks—tricks, shortcuts, and creative methods—that make gardening easier, more productive, and more efficient. As a bonus, many of them reuse or repurpose items and materials that you likely already have on hand.

Protect Seeds With Old Window Screens

When you start seeds outdoors, you may get disappointing germination rates. The seeds often simply disappeared because birds pick them out, especially during winter sowing when food is scarce.

To protect the seeds, place an old window screen (with or without the frame) over the seed trays or pots. Secure the screen by weighing it down on all four corners with rocks, bricks, or other heavy objects. Once the seeds have germinated, remove the screen so it does not obstruct the seedlings.

Repurpose Your Hydro Garden for Seed Starting

If you have a hydroponic garden, remove the water-holding bowl and grow deck and take advantage of the full-spectrum LED grow lights to start your vegetable seeds indoors. Place the seed pots under the lights (if the garden has a timer, set it for at least 8 hours per day). As the seedlings emerge, adjust the grow lights to 3 to 4 inches above the tops of the plants to get straight, strong seedlings.

Make Your Own Biodegradable Seed Pots

Make no-cost biodegradable seed starting pots using toilet or paper towel tubes cut into 2-inch lengths or paper egg cartons. Place the tubes or egg cartons on a waterproof tray and fill them with potting mix. Plant your seeds and water often to prevent the medium from drying out.

Once the seedlings are ready to be transplanted, plant the entire tube or egg carton section in the garden. Make sure that no part of the tube or carton sticks out of the soil causing moisture to be drawn away from the plant.

Convert a Storage Container Into a Greenhouse

A large rectangular clear plastic storage container with a latching lid turned upside down, makes a great outdoor greenhouse.

Choose a container that is large enough to fit a seedling tray or plug tray (24"x16"x7") and drill a couple of ¼-inch holes on each side for ventilation.

Place the seedling tray on the lid and the storage bin on top.

Snap the latch shut so it does not blow away in the wind.

As daytime temperatures get warmer, unlatch the cover and leave the container askew so the inside of the "greenhouse" does not heat up too much. When the seedlings have nearly reached the top of the container, remove the top so you don't obstruct their growth.

Use Barbecue Skewers as Row Markers

There is no need to buy special row markers for vegetable plantings. Inexpensive wooden or bamboo barbecue skewers, sold in 100-count bags, work just as well, and they are biodegradable.

To label the row, poke a deep hole into a wine cork and insert the top of the skewer. Write the name of the plants on the cork with a permanent marker and insert the skewers in the soil about one-third of their length.

Protect Young Seedlings With Sections of Pipe



Even if you properly harden off your seedlings, exposing them to the elements 24/7 in your garden can be tough on the tender plants. To provide some protection from the sun and

wind until the plant is established, cut a 4-inch PVC pipe into 5-inch sections. Gently push the pipe into the soil so it does not fall over. You can also use 4-inch plastic pots with the bottoms cut out around each seedling.

Make a Pea Trellis From Pruned Branches

In the spring or late winter when you prune dormant shrubs and trees, collect any branches up to 1 inch in diameter and at least 18 inches long to make a natural, pretty, and no-cost pea trellis. The branches don't need to be straight, they can be twisted but branches with lateral growth are best, as they give the pea tendrils lots of places to latch onto.

Push the branches into the soil deep enough so they don't wiggle. Place them close together so the branches form a wall and trim any side branches that are sticking out. Plant your pea seeds close to the base of the trellis.

Place Cardboard Around Tomato Plants



The roots of tomato plants are close to the soil surface, so the more you weed around them, the likelier it is that the roots will get injured in the process. Covering the soil around tomato plants with large pieces of (mainly) unprinted, corrugated brown cardboard keeps weeds out and retains soil moisture. It also helps with a thorough fall cleanup (which is important so you don't perpetuate any diseases)—all you'll need to do is roll up the cardboard with any plant debris on it and discard it.

Place the cardboard on the soil and cut a hole where you want to plant the tomato. The diameter of the hole depends on the seedling size, about 4 inches in diameter will slip over the root ball of most tomato seedlings.

Secure the cardboard with rocks, bricks, or heavy-duty landscape fabric anchor pins.

Water the tomatoes at the base through the hole.

Conclusion

Incorporating these brilliant home hacks into your daily routine can make a world of difference, turning mundane chores into quick and easy tasks. With a little creativity and resourcefulness, you can streamline your home, save time, and reduce stress. These simple yet effective solutions not only enhance your living space but also free up time for the things that truly matter. Start using these hacks today in Sydney, and enjoy a more organized, efficient, and enjoyable home life.

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