

Smart Time-Saving Hacks for Your Home



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Abstract

Managing household tasks efficiently is essential for maintaining a well-organized and stress-free living environment. This article explores a range of smart time-saving hacks designed to simplify daily chores, enhance productivity, and streamline home management. It covers strategies such as effective decluttering techniques, utilizing multi-functional appliances, optimizing storage solutions, and leveraging automation to reduce manual effort. Additionally, practical cleaning shortcuts, meal-prepping tips, and efficient time management practices help homeowners in Newcastle complete tasks faster without compromising quality. By incorporating these innovative and practical solutions, individuals can create a more functional and enjoyable living space while freeing up valuable time for personal and family activities.



1. Introduction

In today's fast-paced world, managing household responsibilities can often feel overwhelming. From cleaning and organizing to cooking and maintenance, daily tasks can consume significant time and effort. However, with the right strategies and tools, homeowners can simplify their routines and make home management more efficient. This article explores a variety of practical time-saving hacks that can help reduce stress, increase productivity, and create a more organized living space. Whether it's through smart storage

solutions, automation, or efficient cleaning techniques, these tips will empower you to maximize your time while keeping your home in top shape.

2. Cooking hacks that will save you time in the kitchen



Cooking can be a creative and meditative activity, but there's no reason to spend more time in the kitchen than you absolutely have to. So, if you're spending more time sweating over the stove than sitting down with dinner guests, now's the time to brush up on time-saving cooking hacks.

From meal kit subscription services to smart cooking devices, here are seven of the best ways to spend less time in the kitchen and more time enjoying the meal you've lovingly crafted.

1. Declutter the kitchen

Kitchen cabinets that overflowing with unused pots, pans, utensils and other appliances? Take everything out and decide what you need and what you'll never use. This is also a good time to throw out anything that's stained, broken or, as Marie Kondo says, doesn't "spark joy".

Once you've cleared out the kitchen, ensure everything has a home in Newcastle. There are various products available to help organise everything in your kitchen, including canisters for things like flour, spice racks and hooks for utensils. This will save you time looking for the right pan, measuring jug, scissors and whatever else you need during cooking.

2. Only buy useful small appliances

After you've decluttered your kitchen, invest in good quality products to help make your cooking efficient.

High-tech appliances are worth the investment if they'll be used. For example, if you like a coffee every morning, a coffee machine might save you time. If you like smoothies or juices, a proper blender is a worthwhile purchase. Appliances such as slow cookers and air fryers allow you to cook delicious meals without having to stand over a hot stove.

It's also a good idea to invest in a great pots and pans that will replace a cupboard full of cheap ones – and save you in the long run.

3. Try guided cooking



In case you haven't heard of it, guided cooking is a new trend that's been gaining momentum over the past couple of years.

Appliance makers and tech companies alike are jumping on the bandwagon, helping home cooks save time by creating appliances that take you through recipes with clear on-screen instructions, plus temperature and timings are set automatically by the machine.

4. Make a meal plan

Planning ahead is one of the best ways to save time in the kitchen. Having a meal plan for the week saves time (and stress) thinking of what to make every night. You can then get all your groceries at once and save time on emergency trips to the shop! It also means you can start prepping meals earlier.

Start preparing breakfast the night before, or marinate meat in the morning for dinner that night. Obviously life sometimes (often) gets in the way – whether it’s a last-minute dinner invite or everyone is craving pizza – so leave room in your weekly plan for this. It’s also a good idea to account for leftovers with a “Leftovers Day”.

5. Try a meal kit subscription

Can’t seem to get the hang of meal planning and find yourself ordering UberEats more than you’d care to admit? Meal Kit subscription services such as Marley Spoon and Hello Fresh are more convenient than planning and cooking everything from scratch and will save you money on all of those takeaway orders.

6. Shop smarter



Making small changes when buying groceries is an easy way to save time in the kitchen. There are myriad products available to help you take shortcuts, but the key is to choose items that save time but without compromising on taste.

Try buying pre-chopped veggies, packaged stock and curry pastes so you don’t have to start from scratch. Recipe bases are particularly good for weeknight meals and can easily be jazzed up with extra spices.

You can buy crushed ginger, garlic and chilli to use in everyday dishes and reserve crushing the fresh ingredients for recipes that need a stronger flavour.

7. Make the most of leftovers

Repurposing leftovers to create new meals is a great way to save time, since most of the food is already cooked. It also helps to reduce food waste, which is an issue for most households – 35 per cent of the average household bin in Australia is food waste.

Have a few go-to leftover recipes up your sleeve and you can include them in your weekly meal plan.

Cooksmarts has a handy infographic that you can get printed with ideas for repurposing leftovers. Aside from using leftover food for the next day, you can also repurpose things like leftover herbs and fruit to avoid waste – make some pesto, jams, smoothies or banana bread!

3. Time-saving tips from a professional home organizer



Drastically reduce the time it takes to tidy and organize your home by adopting these 5 expert-approved time-saving habits

I used to take great pride in my productivity and efficiency. My home was full of belongings, and the calendar was jam-packed with appointments and meetings, and I needed every time-saving trick in the book.

After decluttering my home and my obligations, I found that I had much more free time for leisure. I promise you can drastically reduce your own time spent on chores around the house if you adopt these five time-saving habits.

1: Don't put an item down. Put it away.

This is one of my favorite habits. Though our default is usually to place something on a counter, it usually takes the same amount of time or mere moments longer to put it where it belongs.

It may be OK to place one or two things on the counter rather than putting them away, but the problem is when those one or two things accumulate and become four, five, or more things.

2: Never leave a room empty-handed.

I feel like I'm constantly moving objects from one room to another, so I've gotten into the habit of taking a quick scan before I go to a different room to see what I can take to put away.

Is there a toy that needs to go back upstairs? A book I want by my bed? A sock that needs to go in the dirty clothes hamper? I'm already headed to that room, so taking something with me is very simple.

3: Think before you buy.

Did you notice that the first two habits involve moving things around and putting things away? Our 'stuff' not only costs us money, but it also costs us time! One of the most essential time-saving habits is to pause and think before you buy something. Here are a few questions to ask yourself:

Is the item an impulse purchase or something you've been wanting?

What kind of maintenance does the item require?

Can you wait a few days before making the purchase?

What would happen if you didn't buy the item?

Top tip: Unless the item is essential, give yourself a week or two to think about the purchase. If your heart is still set on buying it after this time, it might be worth going ahead with the transaction. However, it's likely you'll no longer feel that urge to press 'add to cart'.

4. Use Timers When Tackling a To-Do List

We have so many “inputs” in our lives that it’s easy to get distracted, so I rely on a timer to help me stay focused. If I have one project I need to knock out, I think about how long it should take and set a timer for that time.

Knowing I’m being “timed” keeps me focused on the task. If I’m tackling what feels like an endless to-do list, I set a timer for about 30 minutes and see how much I can get done in that amount of time. I don’t scroll Instagram, check my email, or even refill my water during this time! I can do all those things as soon as the timer goes off. If you are like me and your mind tends to wander, try a timer next time you need to focus.

5. Prep food as soon as groceries arrive

As soon as groceries enter your home in Newcastle, prepare them for consumption. When I follow this tip, my week is much smoother! I don’t prep meals per se, but I wash, dry, and chop fruits and vegetables that we will eat as snacks or in meals. I create an assembly line in my kitchen and can do it quickly. I love that healthy options are prepared and ready for us during the week when we are busy with work, school, and sports.

Well, my timer just went off, so it’s time to wrap up this article. Most importantly, make sure you spend your time doing things you enjoy. Sure, we all have to do chores but ensure your calendar isn’t full of obligations that don’t matter. Use one or all five of these time-saving habits, and carve out some time to take care of yourself.

4. Savvy time-saving cleaning hacks



Between work, childcare and trying to squeeze in some precious me-time, we're all so busy that it can be tricky to find the time to keep the house clean! But cleaning doesn't have to be an unpleasant job, and it doesn't have to take forever either.

We've been testing cleaning methods for a long time at the GHI — a hundred years, in fact — so we've collected a few of our handy tricks to help you get your home spotless in no time.

1. Do a little at a time

Aim to get jobs done in short, 30-minute chunks, so you don't burn out. Set a timer for half an hour and power through as much work as possible in that time. Having no distractions means you'll get as much done as possible in the time you've put aside.

If you're looking to clean the whole house, be sure to clean one room at a time — don't flit between rooms. Tidying rooms first will speed up cleaning and is something the rest of the household can be enlisted to do! Be sure to dust first and work top-down as this'll stop dust resettling on clean surfaces. Always save vacuuming or mopping until last.

2. Keep your bin smelling fresh

Make use of old newspapers by putting them in the bottom of bin bags to absorb any liquids that escape from the rubbish. Remembering to do this each time you replace the bin bag means you won't find yourself having to clean up drips where the bag has leaked next time you change it.

As for food waste bins, place a sheet of absorbent kitchen paper in the bottom that you have sprayed with disinfectant spray and sit the compost bag on top. This will absorb any spillages, keep the bin smelling fresh and make cleaning easier.

3. Re-organise your bedding Keep sets of sheets and pillow cases folded inside their matching duvet cover. Not only will they take up less room in the cupboard, but it also means that you'll have all bedding ready to go when you're next changing the bed linen.

4. The best way to clean your windows



Clean windows in no time by adding a drop of dishwasher rinse aid to water. The rinse aid will leave your windows streak-free and shiny. Alternatively, window vacuums make light work of cleaning windows, mirrors and even tiles.

5. Get a head-start on the bath

When cleaning the bath, spray the tub with bathroom cleaner and leave it to work for 10 minutes whilst you get on with other jobs in the bathroom. Those 10 minutes will make a real difference when it comes to rinsing it off.

6. Line your baking trays

Use empty baking trays lined with foil to catch drips when using the oven. Alternatively, invest in an easy-clean oven sheet (like the Magic Non-Stick Liner from Lakeland). These sit in the bottom of your oven and can be cut to fit the base — take them out from time to time and wipe off food that's collected on them.

7. Clean your blinds with ease

Use a damp sock to clean dusty blinds in no time. Simply put it over your hand and run it over each slat. When you're done, pop the sock in the washing machine.

8. Make the most of your dishwasher

Use your dishwasher to clean all sorts of difficult-to-clean fittings, such as fridge shelves, extractor fan panels and even oven shelves. Don't put the metal pan supports from your gas hob in the dishwasher without checking the manufacturer's user manual, though; if they're made from cast iron they may discolour and possibly rust.

9. Slow down your clothes wash

Slow down the spin speed of your washing machine to at least 800 rpm to reduce creases and help you cut down on ironing time. Once the cycle has finished, shake the clothes out.

10. Use the right setting on your washing machine

As tempting as it is to pop your wash on a 40C cotton wash, you may actually be doing more damage than good. Machines are pretty advanced nowadays so you can be very specific about what you're washing. The quick-wash is perfect for lightly soiled items and gets the laundry done faster.

11. Keep your taps pristine

Remove water marks from chrome taps with a blob of toothpaste – just rub it in using a damp cloth or your finger, and rinse it off to leave a mirror-like finish.

5. Time-Saving Hacks for a Well-Maintained Garden



Maintaining a garden can feel like a time-consuming task, but with the right techniques and tools, it's possible to keep your outdoor space thriving without sacrificing your weekends. These time-saving hacks will help you stay on top of garden maintenance while enjoying more time to relax and appreciate your efforts.

Use Tools That Do the Heavy Lifting

Investing in quality garden tools can dramatically reduce the time you spend on upkeep. For instance, a leaf vacuum is an excellent way to clear fallen leaves quickly and efficiently, saving you the effort of raking them by hand. Similarly, a mulching mower can cut your grass while recycling clippings as fertiliser, combining two tasks into one.

Consider automating repetitive tasks like watering with a drip irrigation system or a programmable sprinkler. These systems ensure your plants get consistent hydration without requiring you to spend hours with a hose.

Choose Low-Maintenance Plants

One of the easiest ways to cut down on garden work is to select plants that thrive with minimal care. Australian native plants, such as kangaroo paw, grevillea, and waratah, are well-adapted to local climates and require less water and fertiliser than exotic species.

Incorporating drought-tolerant plants like succulents and grasses can also reduce watering needs. Additionally, perennials are a great option as they return year after year without the need for replanting, saving you time and effort.

Mulch for Weed Control

Weeds can quickly take over a garden, but mulching is a simple and effective way to keep them under control. Apply a layer of organic mulch, such as bark chips or straw, around your plants to suppress weed growth, retain soil moisture, and reduce the frequency of watering.

For an even more low-maintenance approach, use weed mats or fabric beneath the mulch to provide an extra barrier against invasive plants.

Group Plants with Similar Needs

By grouping plants with similar sunlight, water, and soil requirements, you can streamline your maintenance routine. This technique, known as “zoning,” ensures that each section of your garden can be cared for efficiently without the need to adjust watering schedules or fertilisation for individual plants.

For example, place water-loving plants near a pond or irrigation source, while drought-tolerant varieties can thrive in areas with less frequent watering.

Embrace Smart Watering Techniques



Overwatering not only wastes time but can also harm your plants. Watering deeply but less frequently encourages plants to develop stronger root systems and reduces the need for daily watering.

Install rain barrels to collect water for use in your garden. This eco-friendly solution provides a free water source and cuts down on utility bills. Consider watering early in the morning or late in the afternoon to minimise evaporation and ensure the water reaches the roots where it's needed most.

Prune with a Purpose

Regular pruning keeps your garden looking neat and encourages healthy plant growth, but it doesn't have to be an arduous task. Focus on pruning plants at the right time of year to avoid unnecessary work. For instance, prune flowering plants after they bloom, and cut back deciduous trees in late winter when they're dormant.

Use sharp, high-quality pruning tools to make clean cuts that heal quickly, reducing the risk of disease.

Plan Ahead

A little planning goes a long way in reducing garden maintenance. Design your garden with pathways and borders to keep foot traffic off your lawn and reduce the risk of compaction. Opt for raised garden beds or containers for vegetables and herbs, which are easier to manage and keep weeds at bay.

Keeping a seasonal garden calendar can help you stay organised, reminding you of tasks like fertilising, pruning, and planting so that you're always ahead of the game.

Compost Smartly



Composting is a fantastic way to reduce waste and improve soil health, but it can also be a time-consuming process. To save time, focus on balancing your compost pile with equal parts “greens” (e.g., food scraps, grass clippings) and “browns” (e.g., dried leaves, cardboard).

Turn your compost every few weeks to speed up decomposition and ensure even breakdown of materials. A compost tumbler is a great tool for efficient composting without the hassle of manual turning.

By incorporating these time-saving hacks into your gardening routine, you can maintain a vibrant and healthy outdoor space with less effort. With the right tools, plants, and strategies, you'll have more time to relax and enjoy the beauty of your garden throughout the year.

6. Preparing For A Last-Minute House Removal: Emergency Checklist



Moving at the last minute can be a time of dire stress and tension. It can also be chaos as you will be racing around in panic, trying to pack your belongings and load them onto your truck.

In the case of such a quick move, it is important to stay focused, calm down and create an emergency checklist. This list will help you understand what important tasks need to be completed and by when so that you can be more productive.

If you feel too overwhelmed with this last minute move, you can always hire budget removalists Newcastle for the job. These professionals have years of expertise and will quickly pack and move your belongings within no time. Here are some useful tips for creating an emergency checklist for a last-minute move:

How To Plan A Last-Minute Move With An Emergency Checklist

1. Create A Schedule Of Tasks

Even though you might want to throw everything into boxes quickly and head off to your new home, staying calm and following a plan is important. Ideally, you should create a detailed schedule of tasks at least 3-6 weeks in advance when moving. But when your time is limited, you can write down a smaller version of this schedule, include only the important tasks, and write the deadline for each task.

This will help you figure out what you can complete quickly and which tasks you need help with. If you don't have time to complete all the tasks alone, you can hire professional removalists Newcastle to help you.

Tip:

These tips will help you plan a move in less than a week.

2. Stay Focused On Your Tasks



It can get overwhelming when you think of the limited time you have to move your whole home, but it is necessary to stay focused. Take a deep breath and manage your time wisely so that you do not end up causing damage to your belongings while packing and loading them.

It is important to also take care of your mental health so that you do not get anxious about your last-minute. You can do this by taking small breaks between tasks to destress and calm yourself down.

3. Declutter And Sort Your Belongings

In a last-minute move, it is essential that you only pack and move the items you need and will use in your new home. When you pack items you don't need, you will not only be wasting precious time but will also add to your moving costs by having to arrange more packing supplies and getting a bigger truck.

Thus, it is necessary to quickly scan each room and throw away or donate items you do not need. If you are still deciding on an item, you can always give it to your friends and family for the time being or keep it in a storage unit.

Tip:

Use these tips to quickly declutter your home when moving in Newcastle.

4. Use Packing Hacks To Speed Up Your Move

Packing is the most time-consuming and strenuous part of moving homes. But in a last-minute move, it is essential to pack strategically and use hacks to speed up the process. Here are some quick packing hacks you can use:

Keep your packing materials together, like your boxes, packing tape, newspapers, bubble wrap, scissors and labels, in one area so you can pack everything quickly.

Use household items like towels and sheets to wrap fragile items so you do not have to keep running to the store to buy bubble wrap, and can save some money.

You should keep your clothes in the drawers and place plastic wrap over them or tape the drawers shut to the dressers and get help carrying these dressers to your truck.

You can also avoid the time-consuming task of folding your clothes, and just keep them on their hangers. Just make a hole in your garbage bag, insert your clothes hangers through this hole and then tighten the strings.

Lastly, lighten your load by disposing of dangerous goods like toxic substances that can burn in transit. You can safely dispose of chemicals and batteries at the local community recycling centres.

You should also leave out any perishable goods, which can rot in your rental truck and attract bacteria and germs.

5. Pack A Bag Of Essential Items

You should also keep a bag of essential items with your keys, important documents, change of clothing, toiletries, medications, chargers, pet food, snacks and water. This will help you survive the last few days at your old home and the first few days in your new home. You can then easily pack up everything else quickly and label all the boxes to help you unpack at your own pace.

6. Hire A Professional Moving Service



Lastly, the best way to complete a last-minute move on time is to hire budget removalists Newcastle. These professionals have the training and knowledge to quickly but efficiently plan, pack and load all your belongings onto a rental truck.

These last-minute movers will help you finish packing and disassembling furniture items to make them easier to carry. With the help of these experts, you can easily complete your move within the allotted time and relocate to your new home in Newcastle.

Conclusion

Creating an efficient and well-organized home doesn't have to be time-consuming or stressful. By implementing smart time-saving hacks, homeowners can simplify their daily routines, reduce unnecessary effort, and enjoy a cleaner, more functional living space. From decluttering and using multi-purpose appliances to leveraging technology and automation, small changes can lead to significant improvements in household management. Adopting these strategies allows individuals to focus on what truly matters—spending quality time with family, pursuing personal interests, and maintaining a balanced lifestyle. With the right approach, anyone can transform their home into a more efficient, stress-free environment.

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