

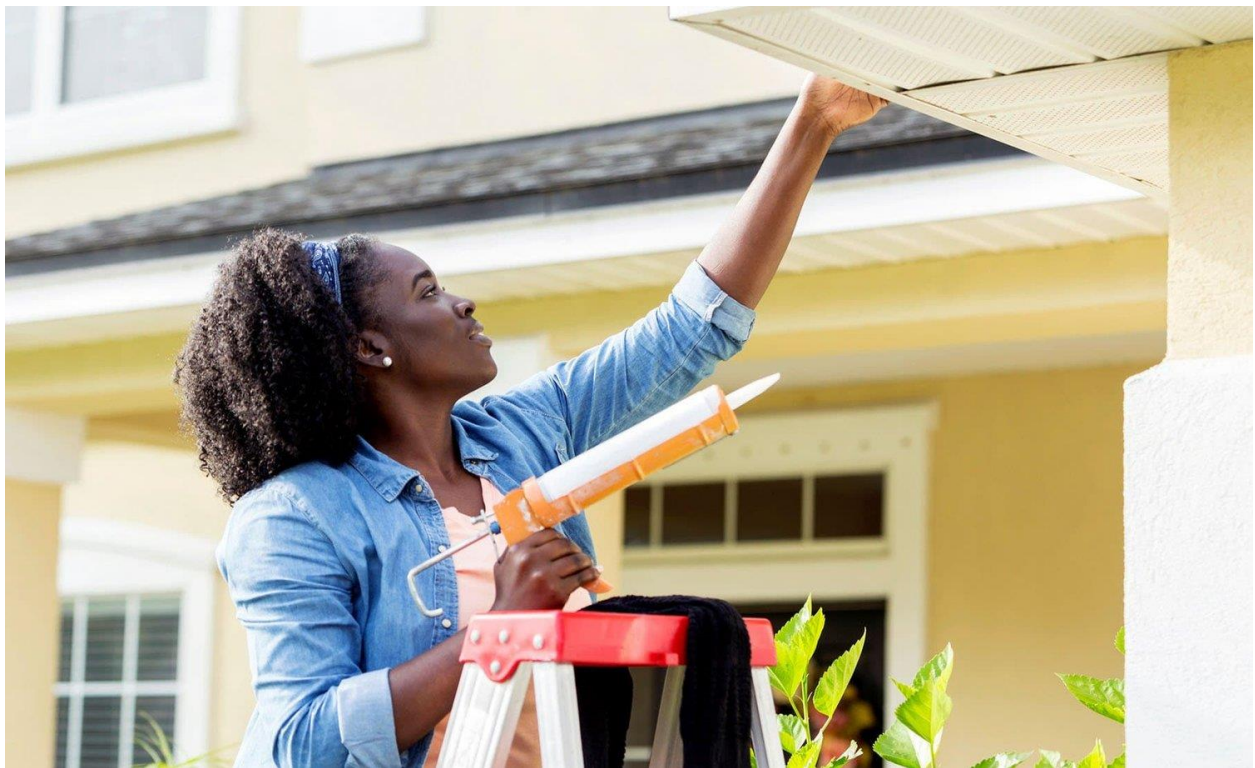
A Quick Guide
FOR EASY HOME
MAINTENANCE HACKS



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ABSTRACT

Maintaining a home doesn't have to be overwhelming or expensive. "A Quick Guide For Easy Home Maintenance Hacks" provides practical, simple solutions for homeowners looking to keep their space in top condition with minimal effort. This guide covers a variety of tasks, from essential preventative maintenance to budget friendly repairs and cleaning tips that can be done in no time. Whether you're a seasoned homeowner or a first time renter, these easy hacks are designed to save you time, money, and stress while ensuring your home remains functional and well kept.



The guide also emphasizes the importance of routine upkeep, offering tips for seasonal maintenance, safety precautions, and easy fixes for common household issues. By following these straightforward strategies, you'll be able to maintain your home's value and avoid costly repairs down the road. With quick fixes, handy tools, and expert advice, this guide ensures that home maintenance is always manageable and never a burden.

LET'S GET STARTED

"A Quick Guide For Easy Home Maintenance Hacks" is a practical resource aimed at homeowners who want to keep their homes in great shape without spending a lot of time or money. This guide covers simple, effective strategies for maintaining various aspects of your home, including plumbing, electrical systems, appliances, and the overall structure. Whether you're dealing with common household problems or performing regular upkeep, this guide will provide you with straightforward solutions that are easy to follow. The tips are designed to be quick, cost-effective, and manageable, ensuring that even the busiest homeowner can stay on top of their home maintenance tasks.

This guide also highlights the importance of proactive home care, offering essential advice on seasonal checks, energy efficiency, and safety measures. By establishing a maintenance routine, homeowners can prevent larger issues from arising and extend the lifespan of their property. With easy-to-follow instructions and a focus on practicality, this guide will empower homeowners to take control of their home's upkeep, saving time and avoiding the stress of costly repairs.

ESSENTIAL TOOLS EVERY HOMEOWNER NEEDS FOR MAINTENANCE

Having the right tools on hand can make home maintenance tasks much easier and more efficient. Whether you're tackling repairs, improving your space, or performing routine upkeep, these essential tools will help you handle most home maintenance needs.

1. Hammer

A hammer is a basic yet essential tool for any homeowner. It's needed for hanging pictures, assembling furniture, securing loose items, or performing minor repairs. Opt for a comfortable, durable hammer with a proper grip and a solid steel head for reliability.

2. Screwdriver Set

A good screwdriver set is a must-have for tasks ranging from assembling furniture to fixing appliances. Both flathead and Phillips head screwdrivers are necessary for different types of screws. Investing in a set with various sizes ensures you're prepared for any task.

3. Tape Measure

A tape measure is crucial for accurate measurements, whether you're hanging shelves, buying new furniture, or making repairs. A retractable, durable tape measure will help you ensure your projects are done with precision.

4. Pliers

Pliers are versatile tools that can be used for gripping, twisting, or cutting. Whether you need to remove a stubborn nail, tighten a bolt, or pull something apart, a set of pliers is invaluable for quick, hands-on tasks.



5. Adjustable Wrench

An adjustable wrench is ideal for working with various sizes of nuts and bolts. This tool is perfect for plumbing tasks, tightening faucets, and assembling or disassembling equipment without needing multiple fixed wrenches.

6. Level

A level ensures that your shelves, pictures, and furniture are aligned properly. This tool helps you avoid crooked installations, which can affect both aesthetics and functionality. A standard bubble level or laser level can be a handy addition.

7. Utility Knife

A utility knife is perfect for cutting materials like drywall, carpet, or insulation. It's also handy for opening boxes, trimming around the house, and general DIY projects. Ensure the blade is replaceable for safety and efficiency.

8. Drill

A drill is essential for drilling holes, driving screws, and even assembling furniture. Look for a cordless drill for portability and ease of use. Having a set of drill bits for different materials (wood, metal, masonry) is also a good idea for versatile use.

9. Ladder

A sturdy ladder is a must-have for reaching high places like changing light bulbs, cleaning gutters, or inspecting roofs. Make sure the ladder is tall enough for the tasks you need and is rated for the appropriate weight.

10. Flashlight

A reliable flashlight is crucial for home maintenance, especially for electrical work or tasks in dimly lit areas like basements or attics. LED flashlights with rechargeable batteries offer longlasting power and portability.

11. Safety Gear (Gloves, Goggles, Ear Protection)

Protecting yourself during maintenance tasks is just as important as having the right tools. Invest in a good pair of work gloves for handling rough materials,

safety goggles for eye protection during drilling or cutting, and ear protection for loud tasks like drilling or using power tools.

12. Caulk Gun

A caulk gun is essential for sealing gaps and cracks around doors, windows, and baseboards to prevent drafts and moisture from entering. It's also useful for waterproofing areas around sinks and bathtubs, keeping your home insulated and energy efficient.

13. Plumbing Snake

A plumbing snake is a tool every homeowner should have for dealing with clogged drains. This flexible device helps clear blockages in pipes and drains without the need for harsh chemicals or costly professional help.

THREE MAINTENANCE TIPS TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR PROPERTY

In my three decades of property management, I've seen the best and the worst of what this industry has to offer. I've seen impressive workmanship and a few tragic mistakes. I've seen someone ignore a termite report, thinking the problem couldn't really be that bad, and then have to entirely reframe a fourunit building, replacing every single piece of wood in two of the units. The foolish owner in that scenario? That was me. I was relatively lucky—it only ended up costing me \$50,000 to fix that quadruplex, but that's still an expensive lesson.

I've written about preventative maintenance before, but it's a subject I couldn't possibly exhaust in one article—or ten. Nor can I overstate its importance to this industry. It might be the best thing property managers do for rental property owners, maybe even the best case for property managers to exist at all.

Preventative maintenance isn't just about cautionary tales. You're not just averting disaster by taking these measures; you're shrewdly pushing your property to the highest level of its potential profits. It's better to go out of your way to do something smart than it is to just avoid doing something dumb.

To that end, here are three preventative maintenance tips that can significantly impact the “health” of your building in the long term.



1. Conduct main line cleaning.

This service scrubs out your main line of any debris or blockages. It can extend the life of your building’s sewer main by many, many years. In my experience, it’s one of the most effective but neglected maintenance hacks out there.

Don’t assume your current management has already thought to have it done—this is something to ask about. The cost of a new main line is typically far higher than the cost of getting a main line cleaned.

2. Clean your gutters and downspouts.

Sounds stupid simple, but a lot of people never have it done. It’s extremely important to help water drain from the roof. Especially in a year like the one we’ve had, with record rainfall in L.A., gutter and downspout cleaning goes a long way in keeping your property safe and leakproof.

Anybody who's ever had to deal with a mold remediation situation can attest to the importance of keeping unwanted moisture out of a rental property—and the astronomical costs that can come with failure to do so. I walked through a prospective client's building a week ago that had three apartment units stacked on top of each other, all of them entirely ruined by one leak.

3. Hire strategically.

The third hack wears boots! That's right; it's a team that keeps a careful calendar and performs all of the above and more maintenance actions on a regularly scheduled basis. Once, I was walking around a property to inspect it when my colleague and I found a lit pilot light that was burning yellow, which meant it was emitting carbon monoxide. Thankfully we took action and immediately fixed the issue, but we might not have had the chance if we hadn't been there in the first place conducting our inspection.

WHAT IS THE CORRECT ORDER TO CLEAN YOUR HOUSE?

It is more than likely that when you start house cleaning, you just make your way to any room randomly and start cleaning before moving to other spaces. While it is true that many homeowners approach cleaning this way, it is often not the ideal way to go about it.

In fact, in many cases, it can lead to some serious health problems. It is understandable why you might go this route since just the thought of cleaning an entire home can overwhelm you.

But it is worth noting that cleaning the house is not that difficult, particularly if you manage to do it in a systematic way. Preparing a plan and executing it holds the key here.

This is how you will see professionals who do house cleaning and budget bond cleaning Brisbane approach the work. Here is the correct order to clean your house. Stick to this order to get the best results.

1. Organise Your Home

It is good to first organise your place and tidy up before actually doing the cleaning work. There is no need to go the extreme way and just declutter everything, rather, simply tidy up to make sure things do not look out of place.

Take some time out to pick up the toys, dirty laundry, mail, and other similar items. This specifically includes the items that are not in their designated location. Organising will not only save you some valuable time later but will also instantly make your space look better.



2. Handle Any Preparation Work

There are a few cleaning tasks that require some time and preparation. They are not the ones that you can complete in one go. Focusing on these tasks after you tidy up your home is the best thing to do. This includes soaking the dirty dishes, bleaching the toilet bowl, running the dishwasher, etc.

If you hosted a house party last night and need to clean the grimy kitchen surface, you will need to use a particular cleaning product and leave it on the surface before you can proceed further.

While you leave the product on the surface so that it can work its magic, you will have sufficient time to complete the other cleaning tasks.

However, it is worth noting that you should not leave the product for more than the recommended time, depending on the surface type. As for the washing machine or the dishwasher, you should turn them on after putting in the loads so that they can complete their job after you have cleaned other spaces of your home.

3. Clean the Most Difficult Room First

According to experts who do professional bond cleaning Brisbane, it is best to clean either the most difficult room first or the one that is the least pleasant to clean. Plus, cleaning the most challenging room first will mean that you won't leave the biggest job on your list for the last when you are exhausted from all the work.

Most importantly, knowing that you have already completed the toughest task will help you stay motivated to complete the remaining cleaning chores.

In most cases, the most unpleasant space to clean is the bathroom since there are so many tasks you need to complete, including going over the shower and toilet and scrubbing the fixtures. If you fail to clean the bathroom properly, it might be better to hire professionals that do house cleaning Brisbane.

4. Move to the Kitchen

After the bathroom, clean your secondleast favourite room, which will likely be the kitchen. If you did the preparation, you likely loaded the dishes in the dishwasher, and they should be clean by now. As for the other tasks, start by ensuring that the countertops are clear and the sink is empty.

Make use of a mild cleaning solution and a moist cloth to wipe down surfaces like stovetops, countertops, and appliances. Pay extra attention to the stains, spills, and grease. Do not forget about the interior of the microwave and refrigerator when

cleaning. According to professionals who do expert bond cleaning Brisbane, completing these tasks will allow you to clean your kitchen effectively.

5. Dust the Rest of Your House

Once you have handled the toughest cleaning tasks, it is time to dust the rest of your living space. It is worth noting that you should dust the surfaces first before cleaning the floors. This is because, during the dusting procedure, some of the particles will inevitably end up on the floor which is not ideal if you just cleaned the floors.

Ideally, you should use a handheld vacuum cleaner to handle any specifically dirty spot. Using a feather duster is recommended for the cobwebs.



6. Mop the Floors

Finally, after dusting, it is best to now clean the floors. Remember to first vacuum the floors as well as carpets so that most of the dust has been removed. According

to professionals who do cheap bond cleaning Brisbane, you will have an easier time mopping after dusting.

When it is time to mop, utilise a floor cleaning solution that is prepared specifically for the flooring type in your home. Adding it to about half a bucket of hot water is ideal so that you can get rid of the unpleasant germs.

There is no better and more efficient way to clean your house than following the correct order. It will allow you to get the best results. Follow the order mentioned in this article to adequately clean your living space and ensure no area is left.

GENIUS ORGANIZING TIPS THAT CHANGED THE WAY WE TIDY UP

1. The KonMari Method

Inspired by Marie Kondo, this method encourages tidying by category, not location. Start with clothes, then move to books, papers, and sentimental items. The key is to keep only what “sparks joy” and let go of the rest. This revolutionary method has helped millions rethink their approach to clutter and organization.

2. The OneMinute Rule

This simple rule suggests tackling any task that will take less than one minute to complete right away—whether it’s putting a dish in the dishwasher, hanging up your coat, or wiping down a surface. It keeps small tasks from piling up and prevents your space from feeling overwhelming.

3. Use Clear Storage Bins

Labeling and using clear containers for storage has become a gamechanger. This method allows you to easily see what’s inside without opening everything up. It’s a timesaving hack for everything from pantry organization to seasonal clothing storage.

4. The 80/20 Rule for Clothing

This organizing tip is based on the principle that we only wear about 20% of our clothes 80% of the time. By organizing your wardrobe around this rule and

donating or selling pieces you don't wear, you can drastically simplify your closet and create space for the items you actually use.



5. Declutter One Room at a Time

Instead of tackling the whole house at once, focus on one room at a time. Break the process down into manageable tasks like “sort through the drawers” or “organize the bookshelf.” This approach reduces overwhelm and helps create a clear sense of progress.

6. The "Everything Has a Place" Rule

A revolutionary organizing principle is giving every item in your home a designated spot. Whether it's your keys, shoes, or electronics, having a specific

place for each item prevents clutter from building up and makes tidying up more efficient.

7. Vertical Storage Solutions

The idea of using vertical space is a gamechanger for small spaces. Installing shelves, hooks, and hangers helps keep things off the floor and makes your space feel larger and more organized.

8. Time Blocking for Household Chores

Organizing chores into time blocks—such as 15 minutes for cleaning the kitchen, 10 minutes for sorting mail, etc.—can prevent them from piling up and allow for tidying in short bursts, rather than one overwhelming task.

9. Digital Declutter

Tidying up isn't just for physical spaces. Organizing your digital files, photos, and emails can have a huge impact on your productivity and mental space. Tools like cloud storage and email filters help keep everything organized and accessible.

10. The "Outbox" Method

This system involves creating a designated “outbox” where items you no longer need (such as paperwork, old magazines, or donations) are placed temporarily. This prevents clutter from accumulating and makes it easier to sort and dispose of items when you have time.

These organizing hacks have transformed the way people approach tidying up, offering simple, actionable steps to create a more organized and functional living space.

HOW TO DO HOME MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST FOR EVERY SEASON

Regular home maintenance ensures your house stays in good shape yearround. Here's a seasonal checklist to help keep your home running smoothly, from the roof to the foundation.

Spring Home Maintenance Checklist:

Spring is the perfect time to tackle deep cleaning, inspect systems, and prepare your home for warmer months.

1. Inspect Roof and Gutters:

Check for any missing or damaged shingles.

Clean gutters and downspouts to ensure proper water flow, preventing leaks and water damage.

2. Inspect Plumbing and Appliances:

Check for leaks around sinks, toilets, and pipes.

Clean your dishwasher, washing machine, and dryer to improve efficiency.

Test outdoor faucets and hoses, checking for leaks or damage.

3. HVAC Maintenance:

Change air filters to improve air quality and HVAC efficiency.

Schedule a professional HVAC inspection to ensure cooling systems are ready for the hot months.

4. Deep Clean:

Clean windows and windowsills, remove any winter buildup.

Clean carpets, vacuum vents, and dust air ducts.

5. Landscaping:

Trim overgrown trees or shrubs that could damage the exterior or roof.

Prepare the garden for planting by fertilizing the soil and adding mulch.

Summer Home Maintenance Checklist:

Summer maintenance focuses on keeping your home cool, safe, and pestfree.

1. Check Air Conditioning:

Ensure that your air conditioning system is running smoothly and efficiently.

Clean condenser coils, inspect refrigerant levels, and ensure proper airflow.

2. Inspect Decks and Patios:

Check for loose boards, nails, or damaged railings on decks and patios.

Apply a fresh coat of sealant or paint to protect the wood from sun damage.

3. Pest Control:

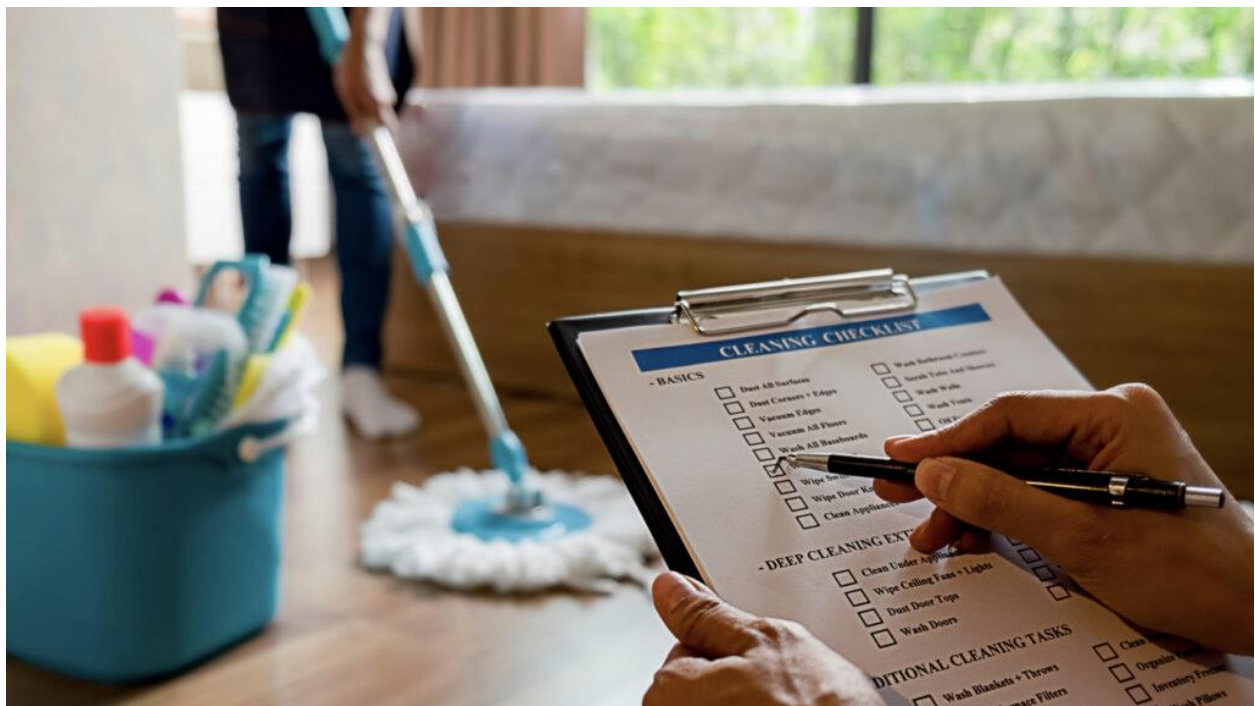
Inspect for signs of pests, including ants, termites, or rodents.

Ensure there are no cracks in the foundation or window screens that could let pests in.

4. Windows and Doors:

Seal any gaps or cracks to keep cool air inside and warm air out.

Replace damaged weather stripping to improve energy efficiency.



Fall Home Maintenance Checklist:

Fall is all about preparing for colder weather and ensuring that your home is protected from the elements.

1. Inspect Roof and Chimney:

Ensure the roof is in good condition before snow or rain hits.

Have your chimney cleaned and inspected if you use a fireplace.

2. Clean Gutters Again:

Clear gutters of fallen leaves to prevent clogs and water damage during winter storms.

3. Seal Windows and Doors:

Apply weather stripping to prevent heat from escaping and cold drafts from entering.

4. Furnace and Heating:

Replace filters in your furnace or heating system.

Have a professional inspect the system to ensure it's working efficiently for winter.

5. Winterize Outdoor Equipment:

Drain and store garden hoses, clean and cover outdoor furniture, and prepare lawn mowers for storage.

Protect your outdoor faucets from freezing by installing covers or draining pipes.

Winter Home Maintenance Checklist:

During winter, the main concern is keeping the home warm, dry, and free from damage caused by cold weather.

1. Check Insulation:

Ensure attic insulation is adequate to keep the home warm and energyefficient.

Check insulation around pipes to prevent freezing in colder temperatures.

2. Inspect Heating System:

Test your heating system to ensure it works before cold weather hits.

Clean vents and replace filters to improve air quality and system efficiency.

3. Prevent Ice Dams:

Inspect your roof for ice dam formation, which can cause leaks. Clear gutters and ensure proper attic ventilation to prevent ice buildup.

4. Seal Gaps and Cracks:

Inspect the exterior for any gaps or cracks that could let cold air inside.

Use caulk to seal cracks around windows, doors, and the foundation.

5. Prepare for Snow and Ice:

Stock up on salt or ice melt for driveways and walkways.

Have shovels or a snow blower ready to clear snow quickly.

By following these seasonal checklists, you can ensure your home stays in top condition throughout the year. Regular maintenance helps catch problems early, saving you time and money while ensuring a safe and comfortable living environment.

5 EXPERTAPPROVED TIPS TO GIVE YOUR HOME A BUDGETFRIENDLY MAKEOVER

Updating and refreshing your home doesn't have to break the bank. With a few strategic changes and some creative thinking, you can give your home a makeover

that looks stylish, feels inviting, and stays within your budget. Here are five expert approved tips to help you transform your space without overspending:

1. Rearrange and Repurpose Existing Furniture

One of the easiest and most budget friendly ways to give your home a new look is to rearrange your existing furniture. A new layout can completely change the feel of a room without spending a dime. Consider moving couches, chairs, or tables to different positions to open up the space or create a more cozy, inviting atmosphere.

Additionally, repurpose items you already own. For example, turn an old side table into a nightstand or use a vintage trunk as a coffee table. With a bit of creativity, you can give new life to your existing furniture without purchasing anything new. This method not only saves money but also minimizes waste.

2. Add a Fresh Coat of Paint

A fresh coat of paint is one of the most affordable ways to completely transform any room. Whether you choose to repaint the walls, cabinets, or furniture, paint has a powerful effect on the look and feel of a space. Lighter colors can make a room feel bigger and brighter, while deeper hues can add warmth and coziness.

You don't have to paint every room in your house—just focusing on key areas like accent walls, doors, or trim can give your home a facelift. Opt for high quality paint that is durable and easy to clean, so your makeover lasts longer.

3. Upgrade Your Lighting Fixtures

Lighting can drastically change the mood and style of a room. Replacing outdated or dull light fixtures with more modern or statement making options is an inexpensive way to enhance the overall aesthetic of your home. Look for stylish yet affordable lighting at budget friendly stores, thrift shops, or even online marketplaces.

Consider swapping out old ceiling fans or pendant lights for trendy options, or add table lamps and floor lamps to create layers of light that make the space feel more

dynamic and welcoming. Energy efficient LED bulbs are a great choice as well, as they provide brighter light while reducing your electricity bill.

4. Incorporate Affordable Decor and Accessories

You don't need to splurge on expensive artwork or designer furniture to make your space feel luxurious. Adding affordable accessories, such as throw pillows, area rugs, and decorative trays, can give your home a refreshed, polished look. These small but impactful changes can tie together a room and make it feel more curated.

Consider shopping at discount stores, online marketplaces, or thrift shops for unique decor pieces. Items like mirrors, plants, and even secondhand furniture can be a fraction of the cost compared to brandnew items and still have a significant impact on the room's appearance.



5. DIY Projects for Custom Touches

Embrace your inner DIY enthusiast to create personalized touches that won't cost much. There are countless DIY projects that can elevate your home, from creating custom artwork to making your own shelving or painting old furniture. For instance, a simple photo wall with frames from a thrift store can add a sense of style and personality to your living room or hallway.

Repurposing materials you already have, such as old wooden pallets or fabric scraps, can lead to impressive results that are both cost-effective and unique. Not only does DIY allow you to save money, but it also adds a personal touch to your home.

HOME MAINTENANCE MISTAKES NEVER TO MAKE IN WINTER

Winter can bring harsh conditions that can cause significant damage to your home if you're not properly prepared. Avoid these common home maintenance mistakes to protect your home from cold weather damage, save on energy costs, and ensure a cozy living space during the winter months.

1. Ignoring Gutter Maintenance

One of the biggest winter home maintenance mistakes is neglecting to clean your gutters before the cold weather sets in. Leaves, twigs, and debris can block the gutters, preventing proper drainage and causing water to back up. This can lead to ice dams, which can damage your roof and gutters. Ensure you clean out your gutters in the fall to allow for proper drainage and prevent water buildup that could freeze and cause damage during winter.

2. Failing to Insulate Pipes

Cold temperatures can freeze uninsulated pipes, leading to bursts and costly water damage. It's crucial to insulate pipes, especially those located in unheated areas like basements, attics, or exterior walls. If pipes freeze, they can burst, causing significant water damage and expensive repairs. Use pipe insulation, heat tape, or even foam covers for outdoor spigots to ensure your pipes stay safe during freezing temperatures.

3. Neglecting Furnace Maintenance

A furnace that isn't properly maintained can struggle to keep your home warm and efficient during winter. Not changing the furnace filter, ignoring regular servicing, or delaying repairs can lead to breakdowns or higher energy bills. Before winter sets in, schedule a professional furnace inspection to ensure it's running at peak efficiency. Changing filters regularly also helps improve air quality and system performance.

4. Leaving Gaps in Weatherproofing

Drafty windows and doors can result in heat loss, causing your heating system to work harder and increasing your energy bills. One of the most common winter home maintenance mistakes is neglecting to check for gaps in weatherproofing. Ensure that seals around windows and doors are intact and replace any wornout weather stripping. Use caulk to fill in any cracks or gaps around your home's exterior to improve insulation and prevent cold drafts from entering.



5. Not Checking the Roof for Damage

Winter weather can exacerbate existing roof problems, so it's crucial to inspect your roof before the first snowfall. Missing shingles, damaged flashing, or wornout

seals around chimneys and vents can lead to leaks, ice dams, and other costly issues. Have your roof professionally inspected to ensure it's in good shape before winter sets in. Repair any issues promptly to avoid further damage caused by heavy snow, rain, or ice buildup.

6. Overlooking Fireplace Safety

Many homeowners make the mistake of neglecting regular fireplace maintenance. A dirty chimney or neglected fireplace can become a fire hazard, especially when used frequently during winter months. Before using your fireplace, schedule a professional chimney cleaning to remove creosote buildup. Additionally, check the damper to ensure it opens and closes properly, and always use a fireplace screen to prevent sparks from escaping.

Avoiding these common winter maintenance mistakes will help you protect your home from damage, save on heating costs, and ensure that you stay warm and safe throughout the cold months. Regular inspections and timely repairs are key to preventing costly problems during the winter season.

CONCLUSION

Incorporating simple home maintenance hacks into your routine can save you time, money, and prevent unnecessary damage to your property. By taking proactive steps, like regularly checking plumbing, ensuring proper insulation, and maintaining your HVAC system, you'll extend the lifespan of your home's systems and reduce costly repairs. These easy-to-follow tips make home maintenance less overwhelming and more manageable, even for the busiest homeowner.

Remember, consistency is key when it comes to home maintenance. Instead of waiting for issues to arise, small efforts made regularly can keep your home in great shape year-round. By following these straightforward hacks, you'll not only maintain a comfortable living environment but also enhance your home's overall value and longevity. So, start implementing these easy home maintenance tasks today, and enjoy a safer, more efficient living space!

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