

Guide to Creative Hacks for a Smarter Home



Abstract

Decluttering is more than just tidying up; it's a powerful way to make your home more functional and efficient. In this section of "Guide to Creative Hacks for a Smarter Home", we explore practical and easy-to-implement decluttering hacks that help you maximize space, reduce stress, and create a more organized living environment. From smart storage solutions and minimalist approaches to creative ways of repurposing items, these strategies make every corner of your home work harder for you. Whether you live in a small apartment or a large house, understanding how to declutter effectively can improve workflow, simplify daily routines, and even enhance your overall well-being. Learn simple techniques to transform cluttered spaces into functional, enjoyable areas.

Getting Started

Embarking on the journey to a smarter, more functional home begins with small, manageable steps. Start by assessing your living spaces and identifying areas that feel cluttered, underutilized, or inefficient. Set clear goals for what you want to achieve whether it's creating more storage, improving workflow, or simply making your home feel calmer and more organized. Gather basic tools and supplies such as storage bins, labels, or simple household items that can be repurposed. Prioritize one room or area at a time to avoid feeling overwhelmed. By approaching decluttering and creative hacks gradually, you'll create lasting improvements and establish a system that keeps your home functional, enjoyable, and easy to maintain.

1. What are the best professional cleaning hacks for home?

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 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 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 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

Cleaning textured ceilings can be a pain. 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.

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.)

Use Lemon Oil and Vinegar for Shine

Woodwork and wood furnishings can gather dust and dirt buildup over time. Regular wipe-downs are necessary to keep wood looking shiny. For extra sheen, mix 1 part lemon oil and 1 part white vinegar for an environmentally friendly (and shiny) cleaning hack.

Must-Know Dusting Tricks

Dusting can feel like a losing battle without the proper technique. Luckily, cleaning expert Donna Smallin Kuper has the tips you need to get dust under control. Try these clever cleaning hacks that make dusting a breeze.

Clean Your Dishwasher with Baking Soda and Vinegar

Melissa Maker of Clean My Space shares her cleaning hack to banish a dishwasher's dirt and odors. First, add 1 cup baking soda to the bottom of your empty dishwasher and let it sit overnight. Then run the hottest possible cycle using vinegar instead of detergent to clean and deodorize your dishwasher. Remember to remove debris from the filter.

How to Clean Your Cleaning Tools and Appliances

There's no point in cleaning with dirty tools and products. Clean your robot vacuum for the best results when you send it through your house for easy vacuuming. Keep your clothes in good shape by ensuring your washing machine gets a good cleaning periodically. Your range hood filter probably needs a good cleaning, and you may not realize it. Scrub the filter so it can vent cooking odors properly. And if you don't scrape your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher—which isn't recommended for newer models—your dishwasher filter must be cleaned out at least once a month.

2. Which do-it-yourself hacks can make daily chores easier?

My typical cleaning schedule goes something like this: I tell myself I need to clean, cringe every time I see my dusty baseboards or spotty mirror, procrastinate for several more days, then embark on a marathon whole-house cleaning session that takes all day. It's not the most efficient approach to cleaning, I know, and I'm trying to do better. But the thing is, I don't want to invest a lot of time and effort into scrubbing, dusting, and vacuuming. I want my home to be clean, but I don't really want to work hard at it if you feel me. To appease both my lazy side and my need for clean, there are a few cleaning hacks I use to essentially trick myself into cleaning. Sneaky, but highly effective. Consider this the lazy girl's guide to keeping your house clean, with minimal effort required.

1. Bundle cleaning tasks with everyday activities

Cleaning likely isn't something you want to include in your daily to-do list, but it's easy to work it in when you pair it with another everyday activity, like washing your face or taking a shower. When you finish your skincare routine in the evening, for instance, use a damp washcloth to wipe down the bathroom sink and countertop. You could also keep a cleaning spray in your shower so you can spray it down each day as soon as you step out. By attaching the task to something you're already going to do, cleaning becomes almost automatic.

2. Use cleaning to pass small bits of time

Got a few minutes before the delivery driver arrives or your dinner finishes up in the oven? Instead of pulling out your phone to waste a few minutes on TikTok, pick a spot to clean, such as your kitchen sink, TV stand, or entryway rug. Be sure to choose a small task that will truly only take a few minutes. When you sneak it in amid the rest of your day, you don't really feel like you're cleaning—you're just passing some time.

3. Stash cleaning supplies around the house



Make cleaning as convenient as possible by storing cleaning supplies in multiple places around your home. For example, I keep a container of cleaning wipes, some glass cleaner, and a roll of paper towels under my bathroom sink. That way, I can clean the mirror or countertops as soon as I notice they're dirty, without having to traipse downstairs to gather up the necessary supplies. I also keep a small stick vacuum on the second floor to trick my brain into thinking, "Why not do a little vacuuming? It's right here!" This doesn't always work, but I try.

4. Use containers to get organized

Containers are the lazy-girl cleaning hack that makes anything look more organized. That jumble of beauty products under your bathroom sink? The kitchen cabinet that's stuffed to the brim with snacks? All you have to do is add a few containers and boom! You're organized. Purchase a set of matching containers for a cohesive look, then sort items by category. For example, use one bin for skincare, another for makeup, and a third for haircare.

5. Combine cleaning with your favorite media

This is one of the oldest cleaning hacks in the book, but here's the trick to making it work: Whatever activity you choose (listening to a true-crime podcast, turning on your favorite feel-good TV show, etc.), make it something you only do while cleaning. That way, it acts as a sort of incentive. Want to know what happens in the latest episode? Better get cleaning, girl.

6. Make cleanup part of your daily routine

One of my favorite lazy-girl cleaning hacks is to pad in a few extra minutes for cleaning throughout your daily schedule. You can get a lot done in a small chunk of time once it's a part of your routine. A couple of ideas: At the end of the workday, straighten up your workspace before you get up from your desk. After dinner, make time to hand-wash your dishes or load up the dishwasher before you flop on the couch. When you turn off the TV or close your book for the night, take a moment to reset your living room and make it look put together again. By routinely chipping away at small cleaning tasks every day, you'll save yourself from having to do an intensive deep clean later.

3.Creative Household Hacks Using Everyday Items

The variety of household cleaning products available on the market makes it difficult to decide what to buy and leave. Some products are specifically designed for a particular stain or surface to boost their efficiency, and glass cleaners are one of them. As the name suggests, this product effectively removes smudges, fingerprints, and stains from windows, mirrors, and other glass surfaces. It can help you achieve streak-free results with ease.

However, you may be surprised by its amazing cleaning uses around the home. Whether using store-bought or preparing a DIY using vinegar, warm water, and mild soap, both are effective enough to remove stains, grime, and grease from multiple surfaces. Many professionals use this magical product for budget end of lease cleaning Sydney.

So, what are you waiting for! Have a look at 10 amazing ways to use glass cleaner around the home. From greasy kitchen appliances to sticky adhesive stains, you can tackle almost all types of gunk using the product single-handedly.

Let's Get Started!

1. Sparkle Clean Kitchen Countertops



Kitchen countertops are often laden with cooking oils, food spills, and splatters, creating a perfect environment for lethal germs and bacteria. These may even cause serious health concerns, such as foodborne diseases. So, clean your countertops in the nick of time. You can spray glass cleaner on the sealed granite, marble, and laminate countertop and wipe it down with a damp cloth. Rinse the surface with a clean cloth to remove solution residue.

Tip: Always do a spot test before applying any product to prevent etching and other hefty damages.

2. Spot Clean Your Microfiber Upholstery

Sometimes, strong cleaning products may discolour delicate upholstery. Scrubbing or abrasive rubbing can cause further deterioration. If the stain is fresh, spray a glass cleaner on a cloth and gently blot the affected area. If scrubbing is required, use a soft-bristled brush and scrub it in a circular motion for the best outcomes. Repeat if necessary for stubborn stains.

Steam cleaning is also a great, eco-friendly method to refresh your upholstered furniture and bedding. It uses steam to remove dust, dirt, and debris from the surfaces, leaving their texture supple and lively.

3. Remove Grease From Kitchen Appliances

Believe it or not! Glass cleaners have surprising uses when used correctly. Go sustainable by using this product to clean your windows, glasses, mirrors, and greasy ovens. Spray it over your stovetop, range hood filters, oven and microwave to dislodge oily residue. Allow the product to sit for 10-15 minutes, and wipe down with a damp sponge or cloth.

Instead of using a store-bought glass cleaner, prepare a DIY using all-natural products like vinegar, lemon, dishwashing soap, and warm water. It is affordable, eco-friendly, and super-effective around the home.

4. Tackle Sticky Residue and Adhesive Stains

Adhesive jar bottles or stickers on walls are difficult to remove. Unfortunately, scrubbing adhesive residue can wear out the polished surface. So, it is good to lightly spray a glass cleaner on the affected area, such as glass, ceramic, or plastic, leave it for a few minutes, and gently wipe it down with a cloth.

If you at the end of your tenancy, prefer hiring seasoned experts for a quality end of lease cleaning Sydney. They leave no stone unturned to deliver exceptional results without damaging the finish of your walls.

5. Remove Smudges From Door Knobs and Taps

Isn't it amazing? A glass cleaner can do wonders in cleaning even the most overlooked things around the home. You can wipe down high-touch areas, including door knobs, faucets, light switches and other surfaces with perfection. Spray the solution on a clean cloth and wipe down the area to remove water spots, smudges and other gunk buildup.

Tip: Instead of using disinfecting wipes, opt for rubbing alcohol spray to kill lurking germs and bacteria to prevent cross contamination.

6. Pre-Treat Laundry Stains

When cleaning your favourite laundry, red wine, tomato sauce, and other accidental spills are the real headaches. Unfortunately, using strong detergents can make them look dull and dingy. However, using a glass cleaner to pre-treat stains can do wonders. Apply it for a few minutes and wash it in the washing machine for sparkling results.

7. Refresh Your Outdoor Furniture

Deep clean your outdoor or patio furniture using this magical product. Spray and wipe down the surface to remove dust, debris, gunk, and grease without causing any damage. Depending on the weather conditions in Sydney, it is good to clean once every week to keep it intact for years.

8. Eliminate Carpet Stains

Window cleaners have strong ingredients that can effectively remove pet stains, food spills and splatters from your carpets and rugs. White vinegar and warm water can also do the same for effective outcomes. Here is a quick guide to cleaning your carpet:

- Remove dust and debris using a vacuum cleaner.
- Spray window cleaner (or white vinegar glass cleaner) and gently blot the area
- Leave it for a few minutes and blot again

- This will transfer the stain on the cloth
- Refresh using baking soda and vacuum again to prevent white residue.

End of lease cleaning Sydney professionals also suggest steam cleaning to restore the shine of delicate floor coverings.

9. Remove Tarnish Jewellery



Do you want to restore the original shine of your jewellery? Use this magical ingredient and achieve spotless results. It works wonders on platinum, diamond, and gold jewellery to remove tarnish effectively. Carefully use the product, as it may contain cloudy ammonia or other harmful chemicals.

Soak in the product and rinse well. Do not use it on other metals and stones.

10. Clean Kid's Toys

Cleaning a home becomes a priority when you have kids and pets. Instead of using expensive products, spray the window cleaner or white vinegar on your kid's plastic toy, rinse and wipe dry for sparkling results. It can effectively remove grime, stains, and fingerprints in no time.

Wrapping up

These are some of the most effective ways to make the most of your glass cleaner around the home. With the right tips and tricks, you can tackle stains, grime, and grease with perfection and achieve a sparkling home without burning a hole in your pocket.

4. How can home organisation hacks improve your space?

A well-organized home is more than just visually appealing — it promotes efficiency, reduces stress, and helps you get the most out of your living space. Whether you live in a small apartment or a large house, home organisation hacks can make a huge difference in how functional, comfortable, and enjoyable your home feels. The good news is that improving your space doesn't have to be expensive or complicated. With simple, creative strategies, you can transform cluttered and chaotic areas into streamlined, purposeful spaces.

1. Maximise Space with Smart Storage Solutions

One of the most powerful home organisation hacks is making the most of your available space. Storage solutions don't have to be costly or bulky. Items like under-bed storage bins, wall-mounted shelves, and multi-purpose furniture (such as ottomans with storage compartments) help you store belongings neatly without taking up extra space. Hooks and racks can keep everyday items off the floor and within easy reach, while drawer dividers help categorise smaller items such as stationery, kitchen utensils, or cosmetics.

Using vertical space is another effective trick. Installing shelves higher up on walls helps keep things organized and visible without crowding your living areas. For small kitchens or bathrooms, magnetic strips or hanging baskets allow you to store spices, cleaning products, or toiletries in a tidy and accessible manner.

2. Declutter for Clearer Spaces and Clearer Minds

Clutter can make any home feel cramped, chaotic, and stressful. One of the simplest yet most impactful hacks is regular decluttering. Take time to go through your belongings and ask whether each item serves a purpose or brings you joy. Donate, sell, or discard anything that is no longer useful. This practice helps free up space and makes it easier to organise the items you do need.

Organising by category is also helpful. Keep all your books in one section, your office supplies in another, and your kitchen tools in a separate drawer or cabinet. When everything has a designated place, you spend less time searching for things and more time enjoying your space.

3. Label Everything for Easy Access

Labelling is a surprisingly simple yet effective organisation hack. Labels help everyone in the household know where things belong, which makes tidying up faster and reduces the chance of mess accumulating again. You don't need fancy labels; handwritten tags, printed stickers, or even chalkboard labels work perfectly.

Labelled storage containers in the kitchen, clearly marked shelves in a home office, or labelled bins for toys and craft supplies can dramatically improve organisation. The ability to see at a glance where things are stored keeps your home efficient and clutter-free.

4. Use Multi-Purpose Furniture



Another clever organisation hack is using multi-purpose furniture to save space and improve functionality. Pieces like storage beds, fold-out desks, or tables with built-in storage compartments help you make the most of limited space. This is especially useful in small apartments where every square foot matters.

For example, a fold-out desk provides a workspace when needed and folds away to save space afterward. Similarly, an ottoman that doubles as a storage bin keeps blankets or magazines tucked away while still offering extra seating.

5. Create Daily Routines for Maintenance

Organisation is not just about setting up a system but also maintaining it. Simple daily routines help prevent clutter from building up again. For example, spend 10 minutes each evening putting things back in their place, wiping down surfaces, or sorting mail.

Setting small, manageable tasks each day prevents the need for overwhelming clean-up sessions later. This habit not only keeps your home tidy but also helps build discipline and a sense of accomplishment, contributing to a calmer living environment.

6. Personalise Your Space for Better Flow

Every home is unique, so personalising organisation hacks to fit your lifestyle makes them more effective. Consider how you use each space and organise accordingly. For example, if you work from home, set up a designated office area with easy access to office supplies. If you have kids, create an organised play area with labelled bins and accessible shelves.

Creating zones based on activities (work, play, cooking, relaxing) helps improve the flow of your home and makes it easier to keep things in order.

5. What smart storage hacks maximize small spaces?

When you're measuring square footage in the hundreds instead of the thousands, it's clear you're going to have to get a little creative when it comes to storage ideas for small spaces. Luckily, there are tons of small-space storage ideas you can use if your space is on the diminutive side.

There are only so many places you can put things, so the more you can think outside of the box within your walls, the better. If major decluttering were easy, we would all do it. But because stuff — at least some of it — is important, most of us have to find solutions for storage.

1. Use flexible storage.

If there's one thing we love about a small space, it's that they show us all how to better organize our things — including this basket shelving setup in this Philly tiny house. The woven baskets are malleable so that you could store bulkier items like sweaters, blankets, and stuffed animals.

2. Maximize wall space.

Reduce clutter and make a place for lots of belongings when you install a full wall of cabinets and drawers, as shown in this chic living room by @terracottadesignbuild. They've even included a few shelves above the TV, which would otherwise be empty, unusable space. When it comes to small-space organization ideas, it's all about making storage out of blank spaces.

3. Get creative with bike storage.

A bike is a great form of exercise, and an effective way to get around a city. But where do you store it if you have a small home or apartment? This bike storage system from @projectcomplete is a simple yet brilliant way to save space by storing bikes on the wall, in otherwise unused space.

4. Use a portable storage system.

If your bedroom lacks a closet, you can still add a space to keep your clothing neatly organized when you add a portable storage system like the one in this bedroom from

@fashionablyimperfect. It's got shelves for folding items like sweaters and pants, and a rack that allows you to hang items as well.

5. Use pegboard.

A well-placed piece of pegboard can be used to hang just about anything if you're looking for small-space organization ideas. They're especially useful in the kitchen, like the way

@itsbrookedarwin painted this piece dark green and used it to hang copper pots. Tres chic!

6. Make the most of windowsills



When you're living in a small space like this 200-square-foot Philadelphia apartment, you've gotta make use of every flat surface! And sometimes that includes your windowsills. If you have them, they're a perfect spot for trinkets or plants, or any other small objects you can think of.

7. Incorporate vintage pieces.

Often, small-space living means repurposing items to suit the unique needs of your space. But the owner of this Australian apartment took that one step further when she stacked vintage suitcases to double as both storage and a cool-looking TV stand.

8. Install shelves high.

Look up! In this D.C. apartment, sky-high shelving is situated over a door to house books and other trinkets, and keep them out of the way. It's one of the most clever small-space organization ideas we've seen.

9. Use a narrow cabinet.

No space? No problem when you incorporate a super-slim cabinet as storage. You'd be surprised how much clutter a slim cabinet like this one from Yamazaki can corral.

10. Rethink your bedside table.

Traditional nightstands usually have a shelf and maybe a drawer or two in them. Not bad in terms of storage, but you often find small-space dwellers eschewing bedside tables entirely or using a chair or wall-mounted shelf instead.

Well, if you're trying to sneak in storage, here's a bold move: Why not use an actual shelving unit like the one in this San Francisco studio? Yes, it takes up more square footage, but the ROI might be worth it for you.

Bottom Line

A smarter home doesn't have to come with a hefty price tag or complicated processes. By applying creative hacks, you can transform your living space into a more efficient, comfortable, and enjoyable place. Whether it's making better use of storage, decluttering effectively, or repurposing everyday items, small changes go a long way toward improving how your home functions.



Smart organisation isn't just about aesthetics; it improves daily life. With clearly labelled storage solutions, you'll always know where things belong, making tidying up easier and reducing the time spent searching for items. Multi-purpose furniture helps you maximise limited space, especially in smaller homes or apartments, while clever use of vertical space opens up more room for activities.

Decluttering isn't a one-time task but a lifestyle change. Regularly assessing what you need and removing what you don't keeps your space functional and stress-free. Pair this with daily maintenance habits, like putting things back after use or sorting mail right away, and your home stays organised without overwhelming effort.

Additionally, personalising your organisation system helps make it practical for your specific needs. Whether you have kids, pets, or work from home, setting up zones and creating easy-to-follow systems ensures everything has its place and purpose.

Ultimately, the goal of these creative hacks is simplicity and efficiency. They help you take control of your space and maintain it with minimal effort. As a result, your home becomes more than just a place to live; it becomes a well-oiled machine that supports your lifestyle, reduces stress, and gives you more time to focus on what matters most.

Start small, stay consistent, and gradually you'll see how these simple hacks make a big difference. A smarter home leads to a smarter, more organised life.

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