

# Home Care Hacks

For Every Corner  
Of Your House

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Michael Jones  
University of Adelaide



## Abstract

Maintaining a comfortable and efficient home involves more than just routine tidying. It is about creating a safe, organized, and sustainable living space. From quick daily habits to practical organization and eco-friendly practices, simple strategies can make a big difference in every corner of your house. Drawing insights from lifestyle experts, government resources, and environmental initiatives, this article explores effective ways to keep your home fresh, functional, and resilient throughout the year. Whether it is optimizing storage, improving indoor air quality, managing energy use, or preparing for seasonal challenges, these ideas help you build a space that supports well-being and sustainability. The goal is to simplify home care while enhancing comfort and longevity, turning everyday maintenance into a smart and enjoyable routine.



## Getting Started

Caring for your home does not have to be overwhelming. The key is to approach it with small and consistent actions that make maintenance easier and more rewarding. Begin with simple daily habits such as spending ten minutes removing clutter or refreshing areas that are used the most. These small efforts prevent buildup and make larger tasks easier later on. Focus on practical organization methods that keep everything accessible and efficient, especially in shared or busy spaces. Outside the home, think about your



surroundings by adding greenery, improving airflow, and preparing for seasonal conditions like heat or fire. By combining everyday routines with mindful and sustainable choices, you can create a home that looks pleasant, feels comfortable, and functions well throughout the year.

### **Ten minutes every day': Kim Woodburn's top tips for keeping your home clean**

TV star took people to task over their dirty homes in *How Clean is Your House?* Here's a taste of her invaluable advice



Kim Woodburn, best known for the Channel 4 show *How Clean is Your House?*, has died aged 83 after a short illness. Along with her co-host, Aggie MacKenzie, she took people to task on their dirty and cluttered homes.

Woodburn's trademark plaited bun and sharp tongue were recognisable to millions, and many found her cleaning advice invaluable for keeping their homes spotless. Here are her top five tips:

### **Keep it natural**

Woodburn was well known for not using harsh chemicals, instead preferring natural household solutions such as baking soda and white vinegar. Over the years, these two common household items became something of a trademark of hers, as she appreciated them for their kindness on the skin and gentler impact on the home.

### **All it takes is 10 minutes a day**

The Queen of Clean said in a 2022 interview that to avoid your home becoming like the ones you often see on TV. "10 minutes every day and you can keep everything manageable".

Little and often was the key: she encouraged people to do just 10 minutes a day or, if they couldn't manage that, to "clean as you go".

### **The kitchen is the heart of the home**



According to Woodburn, wiping down appliances and cleaning up spills straight away are essential in the kitchen. In particular, cleaning inside the fridge every two months with a cloth dipped in warm water and bicarbonate soda are key.

“When you start going over that timeframe, by God, you’re asking for trouble,” she said. Along with binning leftover food, these tasks were essential to avoid attracting flies or worse – the unwanted attention of pets.

### **Use a wet feather duster**

This method catches dust and stops it spreading around the home. Once you’re done, wait for it to dry then shake it out outside or into the bin.

### **When hosting a party, lay down the law**

When giving advice on hosting a house party, Woodburn kept it simple: don’t have one. For her, a party meant mucky beggars messing up her home. But if you were brave enough (or foolish enough) to ignore her and go ahead anyway, the advice was equally to the point.

Before the party say: “This is what’s going to happen. I love you, but if you’re not willing to adhere to these rules, mate, you can’t come.”

## **Hacks For Keeping The House Organized When Everyone’s Always Home**



The shelter-in-place response to the coronavirus pandemic has created, in some cases, lonely existences. For others, like myself, it’s the polar opposite: everyone is home all the time and the house is feeling and looking crazy.

I'm far from an authority on organization. I will say that the frequency with which I've filled and emptied the dishwasher has prompted me to use paper plates more often—I use cute Harlow & Grey ones to keep it stylish and cheerful. But my ideas pretty much end there, so if you also fall into house-chaos category, read on.

Home organization maven Shira Gill was kind enough to offer her top six tips on keeping things organized when school, work, cooking, eating, zoom meetings, yoga classes, HIIT workouts, hair cutting, and literally everything else are converging inside your home to make things extra fun. Check out her advice below!



### **Clear Space**

“Make sure you have a clear space designated for work, even if it's just your dining room table. You can use a tray, open bin, or file box to corral work projects during mealtimes, or at the end of the day.”

### **Stash Toys**

“For Parents: Limit the quantity of visible toys, games, and puzzles so kids don't get overstimulated, and clean up can be exponentially easier at the end of a long day. You can



always rotate in new toys when the little ones get restless, and need something new to occupy their attention.”

### **Say Bye-Bye To Buying**

“Go on a purchase pause. If you're having a hard time wrangling the things you already own, do yourself a favor and put away the credit cards. Cutting back on non-essential purchases will ensure that you don't bring additional clutter into your home, and will also save you a boatload of money.”

### **Move Mountains**

“If you've been decluttering up a storm, bundle up all of your donations and move them out of your prime real estate areas into a storage closet, basement, garage, or even the trunk of your car. This will ensure that you can start benefitting from your decluttering efforts right away even if you can't donate immediately.”



### **Bedtime Story**

“Practice a 5-minute tidy before bed. Clear counters and surfaces, knock out the dishes, and reset your space so you can start fresh feeling good the next day.”

### **Everything In Its Place**

“Set up simple systems so that the items that most frequently get dumped in your home have a designated place to live. An open basket or tray will do the trick for mail, bills, and invites, and a drawer or basket can corral hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks by the front door. If you're new to working from home, you can set up a simple station for work supplies, computers, and electronics so they don't clutter up the rest of your home.”

And there's more where that came from: look for Gill's Get Organized Master Class launching on April 28 for a systematically organized life, quarantined or not. Also look for her book, *Minimalista*, from Penguin Random House in fall 2021.

### **Debunking Common Cleaning Myths: Experts Speak**



A clean, organised home promotes a healthy, hygienic, positive indoor environment. Routine cleaning prevents the spread of dust particles, pollen, and other allergens, protecting your family from infections, allergies and other health hazards. You can speed up the cleaning session with smart hacks and tricks and achieve the desired results.

But some cleaning tips might be myths that can ruin the entire experience. These can do more harm than good, leading to a chaotic situation, stress, damage and much more. You may even lose your hard earned bond money due to half-baked cleaning. That's why hiring professionals for a thorough end of lease cleaning Adelaide is the ideal way to streamline the rental inspection process.



To increase your cleaning efficiency, we bring you expert tips to bust the most common cleaning myths. Follow the pro advice and precisely tackle dirt, grime and grease to create a serene and spotless home.

Let's Get Started!

### **Myth#1: More Cleaning Products Mean Spotless Results**



Applying excess detergents or cleaning products to dirt and stained surfaces for better results is just a myth. Using an excessive amount of soap or solvents leaves streaks and residue behind the surface, making surfaces or carpets look dirty and dingy. This will further attract dirt and grime.

Expert Advice: Understanding the science behind cleaning products is crucial to increasing efficiency. Using an excessive amount won't deliver optimal results. Instead, follow the instructions mentioned on the product's label. With the right tools and mechanical action, you can easily lift dirt and grime from different surfaces without using too much soap or solvents.

End of lease cleaning Adelaide professionals recommend using right products for different types of stains, such as surfactants for dirt and grime, acidic cleaners for protein-based

stains and alkaline for grease and oil. So, follow the right instructions and achieve the best outcomes.

### **Myth#2: Hot Water Banishes All Lurking Germs**

This is another common cleaning myth on the Internet. There is no denying that hot water is an integral part of traditional cleaning methods, but killing germs requires a temperature of approximately 140 °F. What's more! Some germs are heat-resistant and can survive hot water.

Expert Advice: Professional cleaners recommend washing dirty bed sheets, duvet covers, and other laundry in the washing machine, setting the hottest water cycle. The temperature should be around 60°C. This can help you kill dust mites and other lurking germs. For added effectiveness, use baking soda, rubbing alcohol, and other natural options to create a hygienic indoor environment.

### **Myth#3: Feather Dusters are Perfect for Dusting**



There is a lot of hype about fancy dusting tools and telescopic dusters. Feather dusters are among them. They may look good and effective but tends to spread dust particles into the air and other surfaces. It is not the right dusting technique for allergy sufferers.

Expert Advice: Trained cleaners prefer microfiber cloths over feather dusters. These can effectively fetch the tiniest dust particles, pollen, and allergens from hard surfaces without creating a mess. Increase the dusting efficiency using a lightly dampened microfiber cloth. You can clean your walls, windows, carpets, light fixtures, fittings, tables, shelves, blinds, and almost all surfaces.

#### **Myth#4: DIY Cleaning Products Less Effective Than Traditional Cleaners**



Most people think that homemade cleaning agents won't work against grease, grime, and gunk, so they turn to expensive and chemically laden cleaning sprays and products. Of course, these products are effective, but they often lead to serious health concerns due to toxic fumes. Such products can also cause air and water pollution—which is not safe for the ecosystem.

Expert Advice: Many professionals use natural cleaning agents that contain acidic acid, alkaline properties and citric acid during a budget end of lease cleaning Adelaide. White vinegar, baking soda, lemon, castile soap, hydrogen peroxide- all work great on stains and grime. These products are free from caustic elements and won't lead to allergies and respiratory disorders. You can use them and create a cleaner and greener home.

#### **Myth#5: Steam Cleaning Can Easily Remove Pet Stains from Carpets**

Steam cleaners are undoubtedly chemical-free and effective cleaning tools for banishing stains, grime, and bacteria from delicate surfaces. However, it is a myth that they can effectively remove pet stains. On the contrary, heat penetrates the carpet, setting the stain and causing unpleasant odours. This makes it even more challenging to tackle pet stains.



Expert Advice: Instead of using steam cleaners on pet messes, act immediately and blot up the stains with a paper towel. This proactive approach can save you a lot of energy. Now, rinse with cool water and blot again. For effective results, make a homemade carpet cleaner or use enzymatic cleaners or baking soda to refresh your carpets.

#### **Myth# 6: White Vinegar Can Clean All Surfaces**



There is no denying that white vinegar is used to prepare a DIY all-purpose cleaner, but it is not good for all surfaces. You can remove rust stains, grime, stains and gunk from walls, windows, glass surfaces, blinds, toilet seats, showers, etc. However, due to its acidic properties, vinegar can itch or dull the natural stone surfaces.

Expert Advice: Due to vinegar's high acidic property, avoid using it on granite, marble, limestone, and other natural stone surfaces. Instead, use mild soaps, baking soda, and castile soap to remove stains. Professionals also recommend doing a small test on a hidden area before using any product on a delicate surface.

#### **Myth#7: Achieve Streak-Free Windows Using Newspaper**

Many still use newspapers to wipe down the window glass to achieve streak-free results. But, it can make your look windows dirtier- leaving nasty ink residue on the surface.

Expert Advice: Highly-trained end of lease cleaning Adelaide professionals bring a rubber squeegee to clean glass surfaces. First, spray the cleaning agent and remove stains from sills, frames and panes. Next, run a rubber squeegee to remove excess water and soap. This will leave your windows sparkling.

### **Wrapping up**

Understanding the importance of the right cleaning methods can help you achieve the desired results effectively. Hopefully, we have successfully debunked these common cleaning myths using expert tips and advice. So, consider this guide and create a healthy home all year round.

### **Top 10 things to consider when greening your new home**



From retaining existing trees to considering the orientation of your home, there's lots to think about when you're planning your new garden on a small block. We've got you covered with 10 key things to consider.

It's exciting planning for your new home or big renovation. Your garden is a key part of that place where the heart is – regardless of how big or small it is. Getting the first steps right can make sure the result is perfect for you.

We all know the benefits of trees and green spaces at home. Using trees and green spaces to shade your home can help you save on energy costs, and even boost the value of your home. More importantly, it's great for health and wellbeing.

Here are the top 10 things to consider so that you can make your garden the best fit for you – all while meeting the minimum green space requirements for new homes in South Australia's Planning and Design Code:



### **1. Get the right advice at the right time**

Planning might seem time-consuming, but it saves a lot of time and work down the track.

In the early stages, seeking help from professionals such as your local council, landscape architect or builder can help you make choices that increase the value of your home, and more importantly, ensure you have the garden you always wanted.

State Flora can help you choose beautiful native plants to suit your needs including flowering ground covers, interesting grasses, climbing violets, and flowering shrubs and trees. Native plants are suited to local growing conditions, and important to support native butterflies and birds.



## **2. Retain existing trees and green space (where possible)**

As we covered in our earlier blog, retaining trees – especially mature trees – can help shade your home and give an impressive street view, as well as provide habitat for wildlife.

Remember, mature trees can't just be replaced. If you're lucky enough to have one at home, give it the right conditions to thrive and it will keep giving back.



## **3. Consider the orientation of your home and the best spots for your green space**

Utilising the best spots to provide sunlight and shade can boost the energy efficiency of your home.

Consider where you plant new trees and if you're building your new home, position windows to get the best advantage from existing trees.

Avoid impervious (completely solid) surfaces and instead opt for soft landscaping (the living growing stuff) and permeable paving. This will reduce run off and ensure valuable rain soaks into your garden where it's most needed.

## **4. Understand the growing conditions for your plants**

Placing the right plant species in the right place and conditions plays a big role in the long-term success of a garden.

When choosing plants for your garden, consider the type of soil and drainage, amount of sunlight, and complementary plants that will grow well together.

## **5. Check the location of underground and overhead infrastructure**

Avoiding clashes with services such as sewerage, power and water will reduce costly maintenance, repairs, and safety risks. It will also help you save time if you want to set up irrigation to water your plants. If you're installing any new services, it's important to coordinate with your builder and providers on where is best to locate them within your yard.

## **6. Leave room for trees to develop and grow**

Allowing space for trunks, roots and branches to grow will ensure your trees and plants can mature and avoid damage to neighbouring properties, walls and fences. Make sure to leave enough soil volume away from hard surfaces, like concrete, so that trees aren't confined and have access to enough water.

## **7. Design your garden to suit your lifestyle**

It's best to choose the right trees and plants to suit your lifestyle and garden space.

Do you want a place to entertain and impress your friends? Or to start an edible garden and get your family involved? (If you do, don't forget to check out Green Adelaide's gardening hub).



## **8. Consider the watering requirements of your garden**

Don't just plan for what's in your garden, but what it will take to maintain it.



Native plants are a great choice to reduce watering needs as these plants have evolved to cope with our hot and dry conditions. If a lush green space feels like too much commitment (eek!), installing irrigation systems will help ensure your garden can be managed in the time you can put in.

### **9. Prepare your garden area prior to planting**

Buying healthy plants and preparing your soil will help your garden thrive. Consider how much sunlight and shade they'll get, which plants complement them best, and the soil and care they need.

### **10. Maintain your garden regularly**

Caring for your trees and plants will ensure a healthy garden you can enjoy year-round. You can also get your family involved to help you stay connected with nature and each other.

These tips are from the summary of the Adelaide Garden Guide for New Homes, which has everything you need to know to help you meet the green space requirements of the state's Planning and Design Code. The guide was developed by Green Adelaide, the State Planning Commission and Clover Green Space.

See the full guide for more information to get you started and get inspiration from a range of garden ideas.

### **10 tips to keep you and your house cool this summer**



You can keep yourself and your house cool this summer and be kind to the environment at the same time. Here's how.

For many people, summer means BBQs, beach cricket and dips in the pool.



But there are days when that harsh summer sun isn't quite so fun and cranking up the air-con at home seems like your only option.

We've all been there – those times when you just want to turn your house into a freezer and forget about the energy bill next quarter. But it's important to remember that high energy use associated with cooling houses in summer contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

Check out these 10 tips that will keep you and your house cool, save you money, and help you be kind to the earth:

### **1. Close your blinds**

Keep your blinds closed, especially on north and west-facing windows, to significantly cool your home. Better yet, invest in some block-out curtains to shield your home from that harsh summer sun.

### **2. Block the heat**



Stopping heat getting into your house in the first place means spending less on cooling. Shade windows and walls using external coverings, like blinds, awnings or large potted plants. Plant deciduous trees that cast shade over your home in summer, but still let the

sun shine through in winter. If you can, invest in window tinting and top up your ceiling insulation – it'll help keep the warmth in in winter, too.

### **3. Just 1oCmore**

If you must use your air-conditioner, set the thermostat to between 24-27oC, or as high as you feel comfortable with. Increasing your thermostat by just 1oC in warm weather can reduce the running cost of your appliance by about 10 per cent.

If you're looking to upgrade your air-conditioner, pick one with a high energy-star rating and do your research to ensure you choose the right type of air-conditioner for your home.

### **4. Adjust ceiling fans**



Sometimes you might feel like ceiling fans just push the hot air around your home rather than cool it down. Well you're not wrong – fans that aren't rotating counter-clockwise may be doing just that!

Set your ceiling fans to rotate counter-clockwise in summer to push air straight down helping to create a cooling effect and clockwise in winter to pull cool air up. In warmer weather, set the fan speed high and in cooler weather it works best on low. Ceiling fans can

also be used complement other cooling types, so checking they rotate in the correct direction can make a world of difference to the temperature of your home.

### **5. Close doors and seal gaps**

Close doors to rooms you aren't using to keep cool air where you need it most. Seal gaps around doors and windows, and use draught excluders to ensure the cool air can't escape.

Note: evaporative air-conditioners will be more effective if you open some doors and windows to increase air flow through the home.

### **6. Hang out in the evening**



Closing your windows and staying inside may be a great idea during the day, but when it gets cooler in the evening you may want to open your house up to cool your home naturally – just make sure you lock up overnight!

Cooking dinner in the backyard or at the park may be a cooler alternative to being in a steamy kitchen too, so make the most of a cool breeze when you can.

### **7. Chill out, not chill on**



Sip icy-cold drinks, apply a damp cloth to your neck and other pressure points on your body, or have a cold shower to cool your body without needing to switch the air-conditioner on.

### **8. Hack a fan**

No air-con? No worries! A cleverly-positioned bowl of ice is all you need to turn a fan into a cold mist machine. Place a shallow bowl or pan of ice in front of a fan for an icy-cool breeze that won't break the bank.

### **9. Choose cotton**

Cotton fabrics are super breathable and help cool your body. Wear light, loose clothing made of breathable fabrics like cotton, and fit your bed with cotton sheets.

### **10. Change your lightbulbs**

If you're having trouble cooling your home and can't work out why, lightbulbs might be to blame. Incandescent and halogen light bulbs are being phased out in Australia, but many homes still use them. They produce a lot of heat, so switching to energy-saving bulbs like LED lights can help cool your home and save heaps on energy costs – that's a win-win!

### **Preparing your home & property**



Keeping your home and property well prepared throughout the year is essential to ensure you survive a bushfire.

A well prepared home is more likely to survive a bushfire than one that hasn't been prepared and it can be easier for you or firefighters to defend. It will give you more protection if a fire threatens suddenly and you cannot leave and have to take shelter, and is less likely to put your neighbours' homes at risk.

Even if you plan to leave early, there is a greater chance that your home will survive if you have undertaken preparations.

## **Around the house**

- Ways to protect your home include:
- using non-flammable building materials
- starving the fire by clearing vegetation and rubbish away from your home
- creating a defensible space by carefully managing trees close to your home and reducing vegetation for 20 metres
- filling the gaps where embers might enter or catch
- protecting your assets with adequate home and contents insurance.

## **Spark proof the house and buildings**



To protect your house it is vital that you prevent sparks and burning material from entering through windows, under doors and/or under floor boards. You can do this by:

- fitting metal fly wire mesh or solid screens to spark proof the windows, doors, ventilators and skylights
- closing in all openings in eaves and under-floor areas
- sealing all gaps in the roof area along the ridge cap, gutter line and fascia board
- extending wall cladding on buildings and sheds to the ground
- sealing the flute spaces at the fascia board with fibreglass insulation or scribed flat metal with corrugated iron roofs

- tiled roofs need an appropriate fire rated insulation (sarking) immediately below the tiles.

## **Roofing**

Most homes ignite when sparks or burning embers blow under tiles and start burning roofing timbers or accumulated litter. Metal roofing offers more protection provided it is firmly secured and sealed around vents, skylights, fascias and roof caps.

## **Underfloor**

Underfloor areas that are not enclosed allow sparks and embers to penetrate. If these areas are used to store timber, firewood, or other flammable materials, the risk is increased. Make sure that underfloor areas are kept clear of flammable material during summer.

## **Windows and vents**

Crevices where embers can collect are potential ignition points. Cracks under doors, on window ledges, windows, or along verandas are particularly vulnerable. Vents into the house structure are also common entry points for sparks. They should be covered in fine wire mesh to prevent embers from getting into walls, roof cavity areas or through windows.

## **In the garden**

Reducing the amount of vegetation on a property is one of the most critical components of preparing for bushfires.

Before the fire season you can:

- Remove dead branches, leaves and undergrowth from around your home especially under trees.
- Prune tree limbs that are lower than two metres above the ground or overhanging your home.
- Reduce, remove and manage vegetation such as long grass within 20 metres of your home and within 5 metres of any sheds and garages.
- Remove bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and any other flammable materials close to your home and sheds.

## **Other things you can do include:**

- Installing a sprinkler system to wet down your home and garden to reduce the affect of radiant heat, sparks and embers. All fittings should be metal, as plastic melts.



- Ensuring access to an independent water supply such as a tank, dam or swimming pool of at least 5000 litres. Do not rely on mains water being available during a fire.
- Installing a petrol/diesel-driven water pump.
- Making sure hoses are long enough to reach around your home.
- Using a stone wall, earth barrier, or fence close to your home as a radiant heat shield.
- Planting lower flammability vegetation, including plants and trees with low oil and high water and salt content.
- Developing a well-managed vegetable garden, as it can act as an excellent fuel break.
- Planting trees and shrubs with space between them so they do not form a continuous canopy.

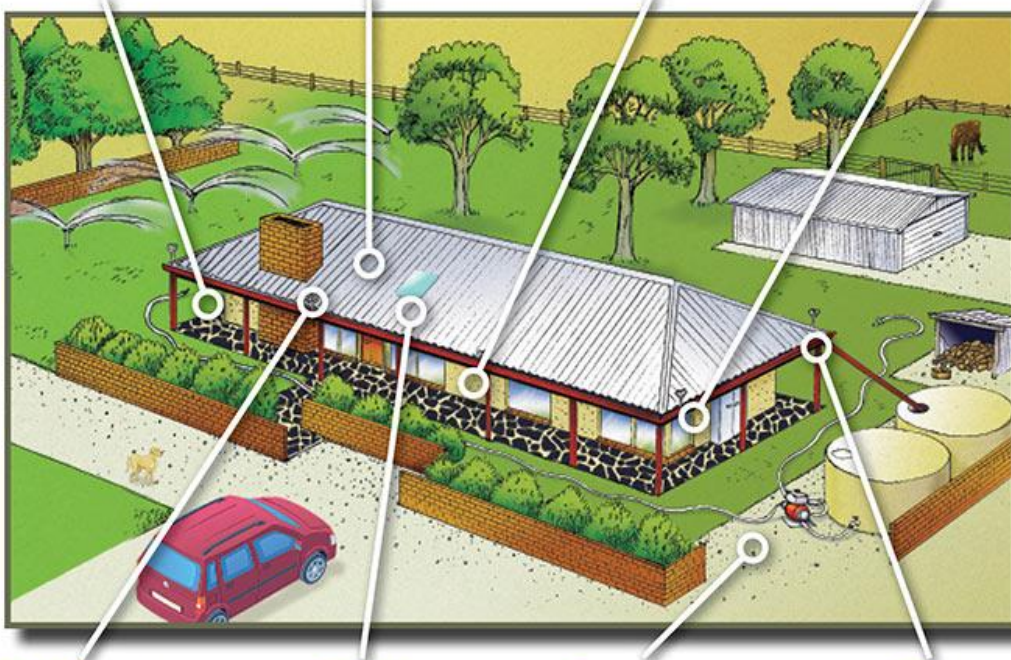
■ **Smooth surfaces**  
Paint or refurbish dried exterior timber, repair nooks or crannies where leaves and debris can gather. Design pathways, driveways and lawns around your home to keep a clear area immediately around your home.

■ **Roofing**  
Well-secured metal roofing is preferable. A tiled roof needs to be well fitted with fire-resistant sarking (fibreglass-based aluminium foil).

■ **Walls**  
Choose non-flammable wall materials such as brick, mud brick and fibre cement. Vinyl weatherboards, rough timber and other cladding can warp or catch fire. Gaps in external roof and wall cladding need to be sealed.

■ **Windows, crevices and vents**

Spark-proof your home with bronze or stainless steel flywire screens on windows and doors, or install fire resistant metal shutters. Cover all wall cavities in fine wire mesh. Enclose areas under decks and floors. Screen vents in the roof space with fine wire mesh.



■ **Sprinkler system**  
A home bushfire sprinkler system that directs water over the roof, windows, doors and underfloor areas is one of the most effective ways of protecting against radiant heat, direct flame and ember attack. Seek professional advice for design and installation.

■ **Skylights**  
Install wire-reinforced glass or a thermo plastic cover on skylights as plastic can melt and glass can break in intense heat.

■ **Property access**  
Gateways should be at least 3 metres wide and there should be clear access with a turnaround point for firefighting vehicles.

■ **Gutters**  
Regularly clean gutters and remove leaves and bark from any areas where they can become trapped.

## Seasonal preparation tips

You can do some things in each season to make sure you keep your home and property prepared.

### Winter

In winter, take advantage of the cooler weather to clean up your property and ember proof your home:

- Clear all gutters and create as much clear space as possible around your home.
- Remove dead vegetation from around your home and prune lower limbs of trees.

- Check with your council to see if a permit is needed to burn off garden waste, or dispose of the material through mulching or at a council rubbish dump
- Ember-proof your home: seal gaps and areas under your home, verandahs or balconies; repair any loose tiles or gaps in your roof; cover windows, crevices and vents with fine wire mesh or flywire; repair or fill nooks and crannies where leaves or embers could gather.

## **Spring**

In spring, get ready for the impending Fire Danger Season:

- Slash or mow long grass and remove cut material (unless it can rot down before summer).
- Remove weeds.
- Cut back trees overhanging your home.
- Remove fallen branches and other debris.
- Remove leaves from gutters.
- Check and service all mechanical equipment, including grass cutters, water pumps, sprinkler systems and fire extinguishers.
- Prepare / check your emergency kit.
- Review, update and practise your Bushfire Survival Plan.

## **Summer**

During summer, maintain your preparedness through the Fire Danger Season:

- Maintain defensible space of up to 20 metres around your home (greater if on a slope) and 5 metres from sheds and garages.
- Clear around trees.
- Remove leaves from gutters.
- Slash stubble near sheds and buildings (following regulations for Total Fire Ban Days).
- Check reserve water supplies.
- Practise your Bushfire Survival Plan with your family.
- Ensure you have a portable battery-powered radio and spare batteries to listen to bushfire warnings.
- Monitor Fire Danger Ratings.

## **Planning where to build your home**



Many Councils employ a Fire Prevention Officer to help the community in planning and prevention strategies. They can help you by:

- conducting fuel load assessments in your area
- advising on appropriate fuel management techniques
- advising on fire prevention issues.

### **Designing your home**



When building a new home in a rural area some of the things that you should consider are:

- house siting and design
- ember proof the house and other buildings
- metal shutters for windows
- reserve water supply, pumps, hoses and sprinkler systems.

Planning the landscaping around your home will improve your chances of protecting your home during a bushfire. Correctly managed vegetation can provide many benefits during a bushfire including:

- reducing fire intensity
- reducing wind speed
- deflecting and filtering embers
- providing shelter from radiant heat

## Conclusion

A well maintained home is the result of steady effort and thoughtful care. By adopting smart and sustainable practices such as efficient organization, waste reduction, and eco friendly improvements, you can create a living space that offers comfort and peace of mind. Small and regular tasks help prevent major repairs and keep every corner of your home inviting and practical. True home care means understanding your environment, choosing methods that suit your lifestyle, and staying attentive to safety and efficiency. These approaches not only keep your house in good condition but also promote a calmer and healthier way of living. In the end, a cared-for home reflects balance, comfort, and respect for the space you live in.

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