

SIMPLE GUIDE TO

TAKE CARE OF YOUR HOME ALL
YEAR ROUND



BY ZACK MILENY
THE UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

ABSTRACT

Taking care of your home all year round helps keep it clean, safe, and comfortable for everyone. This simple guide shares easy tips and routines that can be followed through each season. From small daily habits to bigger seasonal tasks, the guide is made for busy people who want to keep their home in good shape without stress. It covers everything from cleaning and organising to checking appliances and fixing small issues early.



By following the steps in this guide, you can avoid major repairs, save money, and enjoy a healthier home environment. Whether it's keeping things tidy, making small improvements, or doing safety checks, a little care each day makes a big difference. This guide is perfect for anyone looking to make home care simple and manageable.

LET'S GET STARTED

This guide is made to help you take care of your home easily throughout the year. It gives simple steps you can follow in every season, so your home stays clean, safe, and comfortable. You will find tips for daily and weekly cleaning, seasonal

care, and ways to keep your appliances and furniture in good condition. Each part of the guide is written in a clear and easy way, so anyone can follow it, even if they are short on time.

No matter the season—summer, winter, spring, or autumn—your home needs small bits of care to stay in shape. This guide helps you plan those small tasks so you are never overwhelmed. From cleaning and organising to checking for repairs and keeping the air fresh, this guide shows how to take care of your home step by step, all year round.

THE ULTIMATE FIRST HOME CHECKLIST

Shopping for a first apartment isn't easy, when you're searching through the seemingly endless variety of home furnishings, kitchen tools, and linens—and trying to furnish a new home on a pretty strict budget.

The good news is that this is your first apartment and your first time picking these items out for yourself—and it's practically guaranteed that it won't be your last time, so every decision doesn't have to mean a lifelong commitment to a mattress, a set of dishes, or bath towels.

As you work through our ultimate first apartment checklist, don't forget to set a little cash aside for the surprising things you'll need for your first apartment—these little luxuries will make your first adult living space a little homier.

1. Bedroom Essentials

Start with the basics for a good night's sleep. You'll need a bed frame, mattress, sheets, pillows, and a blanket or comforter. Don't forget a mattress protector to keep your bed clean. Other useful items include a nightstand, lamp, laundry basket, and hangers for your clothes. Storage bins, a small dresser, or under-bed containers can help keep things tidy, especially in smaller rooms.

2. Kitchen Basics

A well-stocked kitchen makes it easier to cook and save money. You'll need plates, bowls, glasses, mugs, and utensils like forks, knives, and spoons. Get a few pots and pans, a baking sheet, and a spatula. A cutting board, can opener, and

measuring cups are also important. Don't forget dish soap, sponges, a dish rack, and a trash bin. Appliances like a microwave, toaster, or kettle can make everyday cooking more convenient.

3. Bathroom Items

For the bathroom, pack towels, a bath mat, toilet paper, hand soap, and a shower curtain if needed. You'll also want a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, and other personal care items. Cleaning supplies like toilet cleaner, a toilet brush, and disinfectant wipes will help you keep things fresh.



4. Living Area Needs

Even a small living space needs some basics. A couch or comfy chair, coffee table, and some lighting can make it feel cozy. If your apartment doesn't come with curtains or blinds, you may need to buy them. Add a rug, some cushions, or wall art to make the space feel like home.

5. Cleaning Supplies

Keeping your place clean is important, especially if you're living on your own for the first time. Get an all-purpose cleaner, dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, a mop or broom, and a vacuum if needed. A small tool kit, trash bags, and storage boxes also come in handy.

6. Safety and Everyday Items

Check if your apartment has working smoke alarms and make sure you have a flashlight, batteries, and a basic first aid kit. Extension cords, power strips, and phone chargers are must-haves. You may also want a calendar or planner to stay organised.

Final Thoughts

Your first apartment doesn't need to be perfect from day one. Start with the essentials and add more over time based on your lifestyle and budget. This checklist gives you a strong foundation, helping you create a space that feels both functional and personal. With a little planning and effort, your new apartment can quickly become a place you're proud to call home.

SEASONAL CLEANING: PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR EVERY SEASON

Undoubtedly, every homeowner likes a clean and well-maintained home. However, frequent upkeep and discipline are required to keep your residence hygienic. House cleaning has always been integral to every homeowner's to-do list. The work can certainly be overwhelming, particularly when you need to take care of so many things, including work, parenthood, and other crucial aspects of life. Besides the tasks at hand, you will also need to keep in mind the four seasons.

Every season demands attentive consideration because they provide different weather conditions. You can always hire professionals who offer services like house cleaning, carpet cleaning, and professional end of lease cleaning Canberra. You can also go the DIY route if you have the required knowledge. Here is how to prepare your home every season. Follow these cleaning tips to maintain a clean home regardless of the season.

1. Maintain Hygiene During Summer

It is best recommended to start house cleaning during summer by opening the doors and windows and cleaning the tracks. It is also important to use silicone spray to lubricate them. Clean the doors and the windows and vacuum the debris. Use a lint-free towel to dry the windows. Use stain removal solutions to get rid of

stains caused by juice drinks, ice cream, etc. Next, scrub the driveway and deck. Clean your patio furniture.

Keep your garbage cans sanitised. It is more than likely that you will be busy all summer cooking meals, which is why you should frequently clean your microwave. It is also a must to clean and disinfect your bathroom about two times every week due to the increased temperature. Deal with mould, if any. During bathing, you must turn on the exhaust fan. Keep the bathroom door open when not using because that permits air to adequately circulate.



2. Clean the Carpets and Upholstery During Autumn

Maintaining a clean home during the autumn season is also very important yet challenging. Cleaning during this season will allow you to prepare your residence before winter. You should not face any issues when cleaning your carpets and upholstered furniture. In most cases, hiring end of lease cleaning Canberra professionals who also do carpet cleaning would be better. As for house cleaning, here are the tasks you must complete:

- Clean your wardrobe and cabinets and keep them organised.
- Inspect and sanitise your HVAC system's ductwork.
- Use the right equipment and method to clean upholstery and carpets if you do not hire professionals.
- Deep clean your living room and bedroom.

3. Sanitise Your Home During Winter

It is a must to keep your residence sanitised both before and during the cold season. It is worth noting that you are likely to spend most of your time indoors. This is why your primary focus should be to have a clean and comfortable living space during this season. Firstly, it is important to vacuum the dust behind the cabinets as well as the fridge. Do not forget to clean the coils of the fridge. Remove all the items and clean the interior of your refrigerator.

You will also use your fireplace regularly during the winter season, which is why it is vital to clean off the chimney. Next, gently clean your light fixtures since they are likely to have a lot of dust, which has the ability to dim the lights. This is also the perfect time to clean your electronic devices, such as computers and appliances. Use a high-quality vacuum cleaner to remove the dust from the appliances and computers. This will prevent the circuitry and electronic parts from getting damaged.

4. Clean the Outside Areas During Spring

Spring is considered the ideal time for cleaning your house because the weather just begins to warm up, which is good for washing and drying things outside. As always, it is best to start by vacuuming the carpets and upholstery. Cleaning your fireplace will be easier since you won't have to worry about cold feet. Spring is also the perfect time to clean or replace the filters of your HVAC system to improve indoor air quality. If there are cracks on your roofs, windows and walls, use filler to seal them off. Professionals who do cheap end of lease cleaning Canberra and spring cleaning in Canberra recommend cleaning the patio as well.

5. Daily Cleaning Jobs You Must Do

Maintaining a neat and clean home is a daily task. If you do not make it a habit, you will always have a difficult time doing the work. Here are the daily cleaning jobs you must do:

- Make your bed.
- Wipe the countertops.
- Vacuum the furniture and carpets.
- Ensure the sink and countertop are sanitised.
- Clean the toilet bowl.

Completing crucial cleaning tasks such as the ones mentioned above on a daily basis will allow you to maintain a healthy and hygienic residence. Doing so is important, especially if you suffer from allergies. In case you do not have enough time for it, it is better to hire end of lease cleaning Canberra experts who also do house cleaning and carpet cleaning.

Wrapping Up

Maintaining a clean home is always tough, and depending on the season, you will need to make changes to your cleaning schedule. This is why you should follow the tips mentioned in this article to keep your home clean during each season.

8 EASY HABITS TO HELP KEEP YOUR HOME CLUTTER-FREE

It's possible to live in a clutter-free home but first, you'll need to do some soul-searching. Professional organizer Laura Cattano asks her clients to think about how they want to feel in their space. She also asks them if the way they live is helping them get any closer to what they want in life. After honestly answering those questions, the process of decluttering can begin with practical and sustainable tips.

Below, experts share their tips for keeping your home clutter-free.

1. Get Rid of It

Cattano says that having stuff you don't use or need sitting on a shelf or in a drawer does not make your life any better. She adds, "Get rid of anything that doesn't help you. You buy stuff that helps you do something." The reason you have clutter could be because you're holding on to things just in case you need it or you got a great deal but it's not helping you live your best life, says Cattano.



2. Be Mindful of Purchases

Though it may be uncomfortable at first, train yourself to take a close and honest look at your spending habits, says professional organizer Joanna Wirick. For example, if you buy groceries in bulk but don't have the storage space for the items, change the habit.

This includes receiving from and buying gifts for others, says Cattano. Reducing your spending in this area will help prevent clutter in your home and other people's spaces. If your children receive gifts, Cattano suggests prepping them to make

room for the new stuff. Suggest they choose a couple of items to donate before opening their presents.

3. Look at Storage Choices

Be intentional about what you store away or keep out in the open because your choices impact how your space feels, says Cattano. She adds that deciding exactly what you want to see in a room can significantly reduce visual clutter.

Have a balance of open and closed storage space in a room, suggests Cattano. Even decorative boxes are great solutions if you don't want to buy new furniture to hide things you'd rather not see.

4. Create Cleaning Rituals

“Implementing two simple daily rituals will help prevent clutter from taking over,” says Wirick. “Each night, tidy up common areas and in the morning finish up what you didn't complete the night before.” Focus on the trash, dishes, laundry, putting things back in their places, folding blankets, and fluffing pillows. This tactic is a sure way to stay on top of clutter.

5. Make Your Bed

Quickly tug the sheets and comforter up and fluff your pillows in the morning as you get out of bed. Just making your bed every day will kickstart your day and encourage you to keep the rest of your bedroom neat and organized.

6. Keep Surfaces Clear

Keep all of your surfaces, from countertops and dining room tables to nightstands and coffee tables, free of piles of clutter by placing small bowls, bins, or boxes on the surfaces to capture paper and small items. That way when the container is near overflowing, you will be forced to cull through the items.

7. Clear Any Paperwork

Managing paperwork is key to a clutter-free home. Take time to set up a system for organizing important documents. Keep a recycling box or bin near the entryway so you'll automatically dispose of your junk mail.

8. Always Put Things Back

Once you've decluttered, you'll likely have a place for everything in your home. If you don't have a place for something, create one so you know where to find it and where to put it back as soon as you've used it. This way you won't misplace anything or buy duplicates that will re-clutter your space.

SMALL-APPLIANCE STORAGE IDEAS TO REDUCE COUNTERTOP CLUTTER

Whether your kitchen lacks counter space or you simply don't want to crowd its surfaces, it's important to keep clutter off countertops. After all, less stuff means more room for cooking, baking, or meal prepping. One culprit of countertop clutter is small appliances. While some items make sense to leave out because of frequent use (your coffee maker, for example), many appliances can be tucked away neatly and at the ready for when they need to be put to work. Use the following ideas for small appliance storage to keep your kitchen counters clear so you can focus on your culinary skills.



1. Use Deep Cabinets or Drawers

If your kitchen has deep lower cabinets or wide drawers, use them to store your small appliances when they're not in use. This helps keep your counters free and gives each item a designated spot. Add drawer dividers or shelf liners to keep things from sliding around. For heavier appliances like stand mixers or slow cookers, consider storing them in lower cabinets to avoid lifting strain.

2. Try Pull-Out Shelves or Roll-Out Trays

Pull-out shelves are great for hiding away appliances but keeping them easy to reach. These trays slide in and out like drawers, letting you see everything without digging around. You can install them inside cabinets or pantries, making it simple to grab your blender or food processor when needed and tuck it away just as quickly.

3. Create an Appliance Garage

An appliance garage is a small cabinet with a roll-up or lift-up door, usually placed on the counter under upper cabinets. It's perfect for storing things like a toaster or coffee machine while keeping them out of sight. This option keeps your counters clear but still lets you use your appliances without having to move them every time.

4. Use a Pantry or Utility Closet

If you have a pantry or extra closet nearby, consider turning a shelf or section into small-appliance storage. Place each appliance in its own bin or basket, label it, and arrange them by how often you use them. Keep daily-use items on middle shelves for easy access and store less-used gadgets up high or down low.

5. Add a Kitchen Cart or Trolley

A rolling kitchen cart is a smart way to add storage when you're short on cabinets. Choose a cart with shelves or drawers to hold your appliances. You can move it around as needed and even tuck it into a corner or closet when not in use. It's especially useful in small kitchens or apartments.

6. Hang or Wall-Mount Lightweight Appliances

Some small appliances, like hand mixers or mini blenders, are light enough to hang. Install hooks, pegboards, or wall-mounted shelves to keep them off the

counter. You'll free up space and make them easy to grab. Just make sure to hang only lightweight items to avoid damage or accidents.

7. Rotate by Season or Frequency

Not all appliances need to be out all the time. Think about which ones you use daily versus those you use occasionally. Store seasonal items like ice cream makers or slow cookers in a top shelf or spare room, and keep your everyday tools nearby. Rotating your appliances based on use will make your kitchen feel less crowded.

8. Use Clear Storage Bins or Labels

To keep things neat and easy to find, use clear bins or plastic containers for your appliances and cords. Label each bin so you know what's inside without opening everything. This also helps prevent cords from getting tangled or lost.

Final Tip: Declutter First

Before finding storage solutions, take time to declutter. If you have appliances you never use, consider donating or giving them away. Keeping only the items you need will make it easier to stay organised and enjoy a clutter-free kitchen.

With these smart storage ideas, you can keep your kitchen tidy, functional, and stylish—without having to sacrifice your favorite appliances.

KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE WHILE YOU ARE AWAY

Tens of thousands of older adults head to warmer climates for the winter. As hips and knees begin to wear out, arthritic joints make shoveling snow an agony, and icy sidewalks become a fall magnet, heading south, for many, is as much a necessity as a luxury, and Covid-19 has not significantly impeded that migration. For most snowbirds (the nickname for those human migrants), it's just as easy to shelter-in-place in a rented condo in Florida as it is at home in Minnesota or Maine. For boomers joining the migratory pack this year or next, it's important not to ignore a few key chores that will make that permanent home safe and secure while it is unoccupied for those many cold months.

According to Travelers data, 20% of homeowner insurance claims result from water damage resulting from pipe failures, including frozen pipes that can lead to

leaks.. Additionally, homeowners with “smart” homes can monitor conditions inside the house, including leaks and temperature changes while they are away. In some situations it’s best to turn the water off completely and bleed the lines before vacating a house for long periods. In other situations, it’s possible to safely leave the water on if the thermostat inside the home is set for 55 degrees or higher. Plumbers can make an educated call on whether pipes are vulnerable to freezing

It’s also important to make sure a house doesn’t appear unoccupied. Stopping or forwarding mail and other deliveries, putting lights on timers, and scheduling snow removal are all important steps to take before relocating. Confirming that alarm systems are in good working order, storing valuables in a safe place, and securing doors with deadbolts are also important. Again, smart home monitoring and security systems like Ring and Simplisafe offer another layer of protection and peace of mind for those who leave home for long periods of time.

Travelers also offers a good checklist for homeowners preparing their home to be vacant:



- Forward your mail and stop newspaper delivery.
- Ask a trusted neighbor or relative to regularly check on your home, and remove packages and other items that may have been left at your door.
- Arrange for someone to clear snow from your driveway and walkways.
- Confirm that alarm systems are working, install or test motion-activated lights and set interior lights on timers.
- Secure valuables that you are not taking with you in a safe deposit box or other secure location.
- Install deadbolt locks, security-type hinges and sturdy door frames that cannot be spread apart. Invest in slide locks or other equivalent security locks for sliding glass doors or French doors.
- If you are not heating your home while you are away, turn off the home's water supply and drain pipes completely. Add non-toxic antifreeze rated for plumbing systems to toilet tanks and bowls.
- If the heat will be kept on in your home, turn off the water supply (after verifying with your boiler servicing professional that it is safe to do so for your particular heating system), shut off water to dishwashers and clothes washers, and maintain heat in your home.
- Set the temperature to a minimum of 55 degrees Fahrenheit, and leave the furnace running to prevent pipes from freezing.
- Perform or schedule routine inspections and maintenance before you go, including heating system, roof, chimney, and gutters.
- Remove dead trees and large, overhanging limbs (weight from snow can be the final straw on unhealthy trees and limbs).
- Replace batteries on smoke detectors
- Unplug all appliances and phones.
- Clean the home thoroughly, check for potential openings, and remove food to discourage pests.
- Arrange for a trusted relative, neighbor or friend to be available and have access to your house in case of emergency.

EXPERTS SHARE 9 EASY HABITS TO KEEP YOUR HOME CLUTTER-FREE

Incorporating simple practices into your routine can significantly contribute to a more organized and clutter-free home environment. Over time, these small, consistent efforts can become automatic and add up to create a peaceful and well-ordered living space.

Consistent, short cleaning and organizing sessions can effectively thwart clutter accumulation and alleviate the burden of a daunting cleanup. By adopting some of these expert-recommended habits, you can maintain a consistently clutter-free home.

These tasks will help you organize and declutter your home, regardless of your time constraints. So why not try incorporating some or all of these ideas into your daily routine? By maintaining these practices, you can break down potentially overwhelming tasks into manageable steps, making household jobs more manageable.



1. Make Your Bed Every Morning

Starting your day by making your bed might seem small, but it sets a positive tone. Experts say it's a quick task that creates a sense of order and motivates you to keep the rest of the room tidy. It instantly makes your bedroom look cleaner and encourages you to stay on top of other tasks.

2. Follow the One-Minute Rule

If something takes less than one minute to do, do it right away. This could be hanging up a jacket, putting away your shoes, or wiping down a counter. By tackling these tiny tasks in the moment, you stop clutter from piling up and make your home easier to manage.

3. Give Everything a Home

A common cause of clutter is items not having a proper place. Take time to assign a "home" to your belongings, from mail and keys to remote controls and chargers. Once everything has a place, it's easier to return items to where they belong instead of leaving them out.

4. Do a 10-Minute Tidy Every Evening

Spend just 10 minutes each evening putting things back in their place. It's a great way to reset your space before going to bed and makes mornings less stressful. You can set a timer and turn it into a quick daily habit that keeps mess from building up.

5. Declutter as You Go

Don't wait for a big cleaning day to get rid of what you don't need. If you notice clothes you never wear, expired food, or items you no longer use, take a few seconds to toss or donate them. Little by little, this helps reduce the amount of clutter in your home.

6. Keep Flat Surfaces Clear

Countertops, tables, and shelves tend to collect clutter fast. Make it a habit to keep them as clear as possible. Only keep items on them that you use every day, and put everything else away. A clear surface makes your space feel open and calm.

7. Unload and Sort Daily

When you get home from work or errands, don't drop everything by the door. Take

a few minutes to unpack your bag, hang your coat, and sort any mail or shopping. This keeps things from building up in entryways and makes your space feel more welcoming.

8. Store Smartly

Use storage bins, baskets, and drawer organisers to keep things in order. Group similar items together and label containers when needed. Experts suggest storing things vertically when possible, to save space and make everything easier to see.

9. Be Honest About What You Need

We often hold on to things "just in case" or because of guilt. Experts recommend being honest with yourself — if you haven't used something in the past year, it might be time to let it go. A clutter-free home starts with keeping only what truly adds value to your life.

Final Thoughts

You don't need to spend hours cleaning to keep your home clutter-free. These small habits, when done consistently, can help you stay organised with less effort. Start with one or two and slowly build them into your routine. Before long, you'll notice your space feels tidier, calmer, and much easier to maintain.

CONCLUSION

Taking care of your home all year round does not have to be difficult. With a little planning and regular attention, you can keep your space clean, safe, and comfortable every season. Simple daily habits like tidying up, wiping surfaces, and checking for small issues can prevent bigger problems later. Seasonal tasks, such as cleaning gutters, checking heating or cooling systems, and deep cleaning certain areas, help your home stay in good condition no matter the time of year.

By following a simple routine, you can manage your home with less stress and more confidence. You do not need to do everything at once—just break tasks into smaller steps and stay consistent. Involving your family or housemates can also make it easier and more enjoyable. Whether you live in a small apartment or a large house, caring for your home is an ongoing process, but it can be simple and rewarding. This guide is here to remind you that a well-maintained home supports

a peaceful, healthy, and happy life. With these easy tips, you will be ready to care for your home through every season, one step at a time.



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