LIVING WELL IN MELBOURNE:

Your Guide To A Comfortable Home

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Alex Martin
The University of Melbourne

Abstract

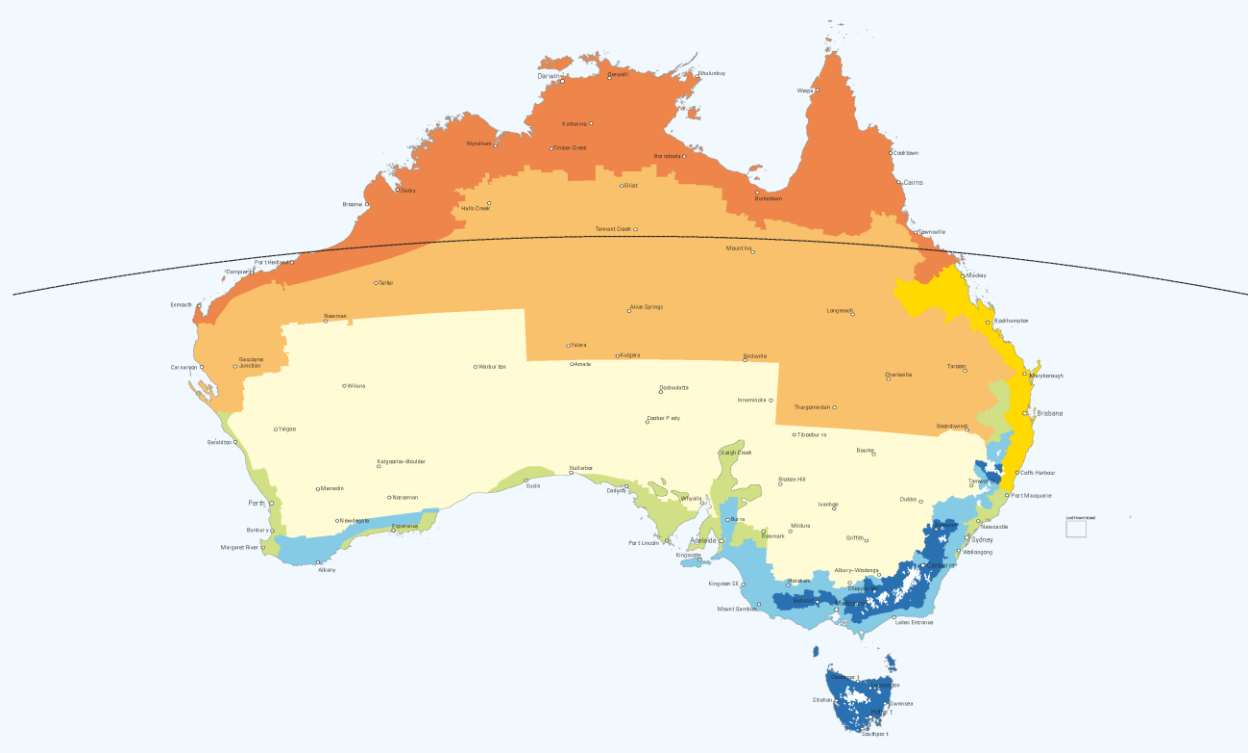
Living comfortably in Melbourne requires more than just furniture and decoration. From fluctuating seasonal temperatures to indoor air quality, energy efficiency, and home maintenance, every detail affects how well you experience your living space. This guide provides practical, actionable advice for Melbourne residents on creating a comfortable, healthy, and sustainable home. Topics include designing for the local climate, managing heat and cold, improving ventilation and air quality, energy-saving strategies, draught proofing, moisture control, rental responsibilities, and regular cleaning tips. By following these guidelines, homeowners and tenants alike can enjoy a living environment that is not only visually appealing but also promotes wellbeing, energy efficiency, and everyday comfort.

Getting Started

Before diving into specific techniques and tips, it is important to understand the foundations of a comfortable home. Start by assessing your living space: check areas that are prone to heat or cold, identify sources of drafts, note places with poor ventilation or high moisture, and examine appliances or systems that impact energy usage. Understanding the local climate and seasonal challenges in Melbourne will help you prioritize improvements. Whether you are a homeowner, tenant, or renter in public housing, knowing your rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for upgrades is key. With a clear understanding of your home's needs, you can follow this guide to make small but effective changes that create a healthier, more enjoyable living environment.

Living in Melbourne's climate

Design for climate



Key points

- Design for climate means that your home is designed to keep you at a comfortable temperature throughout the year, based on where you live.
- Australia has 8 main climate zones, ranging from tropical zones in the north to cold zones in the south. Each zone performs differently throughout the seasons.
- By paying attention to your climate zone when buying, building or renovating, you can ensure that your home will keep you comfortable while using the least possible energy for heating and cooling.
- Designs for Climate zone 1 (Hot humid summer, warm winter) and Climate zone 2 (Warm humid summer, mild winter) need to pay most attention to effective cooling. This can be challenging in a humid environment.
- Designs for Climate zone 3 (Hot dry summer, warm winter) need to pay most attention to effective cooling. This is relatively easy in a dry environment.
- Designs for Climate zone 4 (Hot dry summer, cool winter), Climate zone 5 (Warm temperate) and Climate zone 6 (Mild temperate) need to achieve a balance between reducing cooling needs in summer and reducing heating needs in winter.
- Designs for Climate zone 7 (Cool temperate) and Climate zone 8 (Alpine) need to pay most attention to effective heating.

- Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) software assesses how well your home design will work for your climate zone. It can be a good idea to engage an energy assessor qualified to conduct house energy ratings using NatHERS software.

Understanding design for climate

What is design for climate?

Design for climate means that a home is designed or modified to:

- suit the climate it is built in
- keep the occupants thermally comfortable (that is, they do not feel too hot or too cold)
- use minimal heating or cooling.

The design should also consider projected changes to the climate.

Note

Design for climate requires the use of passive design principles, along with energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, and energy-efficient behaviour by the occupants.

Australian climate zones

The climate for your region will determine the most effective design strategies for your home – a cool region such as Launceston will require different strategies from a tropical region such as Darwin.

Identifying your climate zone is the first step to designing for climate.

Australia has 8 climate zones, defined by the National Construction Code (NCC). Each climate zone has different design and construction requirements. There are also 69 regional subzones, defined by the NatHERS, which are determined by local geographic features including wind patterns and height above sea level. Given Australia's geographic size, the 8 climate zones cover vast areas and may contain significant variations within them, so looking at the characteristics of your regional subzone might provide the most useful information.

You can gain a more detailed idea of your local climate by comparing your summer and winter energy bills, consulting an architect or designer, asking your local energy authority, or referring to local meteorological records. If you are doing your own local climate research, you should look at:

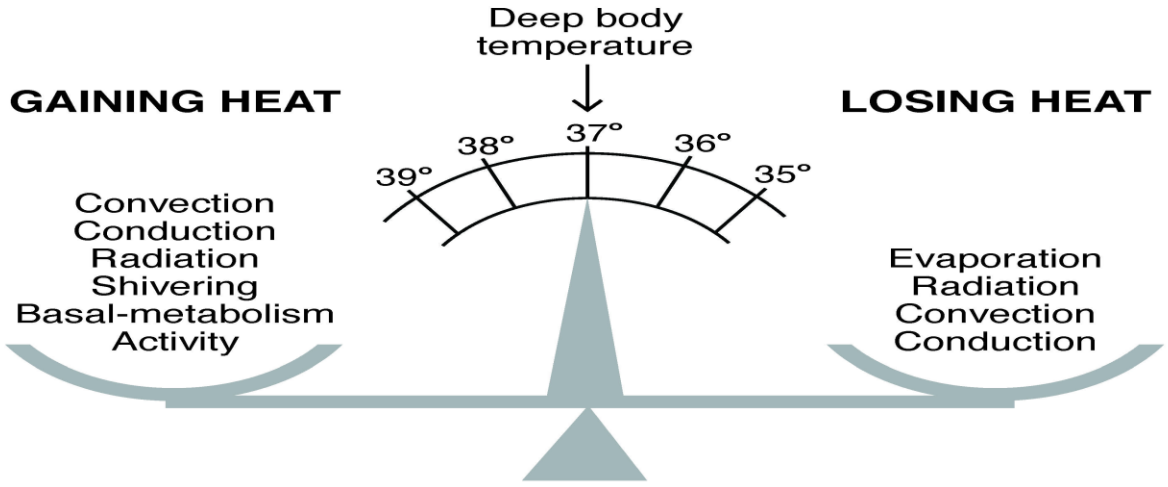
- temperature ranges, both seasonal and day–night (diurnal)

- extreme temperatures, especially the frequency and severity of heatwaves
- humidity ranges
- direction of cooling breezes, hot winds, cold winds, wet winds (for example, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology provides a graphical representation of wind direction, strength, and frequency for each region in Australia

Thermal comfort

To achieve thermal comfort in your climate zone, it can be useful to understand what thermal comfort means for humans.

Humans are sensitive to heat and cold, and are comfortable within a very narrow range of thermal conditions. Our body temperature is about 37°C and our bodies constantly produce heat, which is lost to the environment. To stay comfortable, we must lose heat at the same rate it is produced, and gain heat at the same rate it is lost. The following diagram shows the various ways our bodies achieve this.



Physiological and psychological comfort

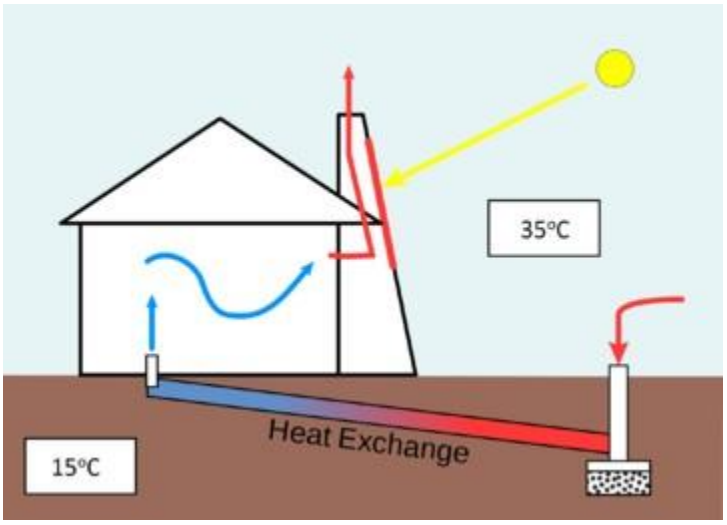
Human thermal comfort has 2 components: physiological and psychological. Both needs must be met before we feel truly comfortable.

The main factors influencing both physiological and psychological human comfort are:

- temperature
- humidity
- air movement
- exposure to heat sources
- exposure to cool surfaces.

Careful design and technology choices can result in a building that delivers physiological comfort – that is, it addresses all the physical factors necessary for comfort. However, the same building might not meet our psychological comfort needs.

Important triggers for psychological discomfort are air movement, radiation and conduction. They trigger innate self-preservation responses that can override our ability to perceive physical comfort. For example, we can feel cold in a room that is a comfortable 22°C if there is a cold window nearby. Conversely, we can feel warm at 0°C if we are well insulated with warm clothing and standing in the sun.



Acclimatisation is a critical component of psychological comfort. If we are used to an environment, it will feel comfortable. This can affect our heating and cooling needs. For example, the increasing presence of air-conditioning in homes may be shifting expectations and perceptions of comfort so that we expect homes to be cool during summer.

Losing body heat

We lose body heat in 3 ways: evaporation, radiation and conduction.

Our most effective cooling method is the evaporation of perspiration. Evaporation rates are influenced by air movement. Generally, a breeze of 0.5 metres per second is equivalent to a 3°C reduction in temperature. High humidity levels reduce evaporation rates, which is why humid environments can feel hotter.

We also lose heat by radiating heat through the air to surfaces that are cooler than our body temperature, such as tiled concrete floors cooled by night breezes or earth coupling. Radiation can be very important to our psychological perception of comfort.

Gaining body heat

When the heat produced by our bodies is not enough to maintain our body temperature, we shiver. This generates body heat and also triggers psychological warning mechanisms. We usually respond to these warnings by putting on more clothes or sheltering from wind and draughts.

We can also gain heat through radiation from a heat source, such as a heater or sun through a window. As with cooling, radiation is very important to our perception of comfort.

To build a comfortable and resilient home for the future, think beyond your current climate to consider how it might be in 10, 20 or 50 years from now.

You can find more information about projected changes in the climate for your local area at the Australian Government's Climate change in Australia. This site includes a tool to identify locations that currently have a climate similar to what your predicted future local climate may be. These can help you to understand what conditions may be like in your location in the future.

Energy Smart Housing Manual

If you're building or renovating your home, make the most of your investment by incorporating energy efficiency into the design.

Investing in good design as early as possible will provide a home with increased comfort levels year-round and offer the opportunity to save on water and energy bills now and into the future. The Energy Smart Housing Manual will help you comply with the 6 Star Standard regulations, or exceed minimum standards and reduce construction costs.

Who will find the Energy Smart Housing Manual useful?

This is a resource for prospective home builders, renovators, builders, local councils and students to use as a guide. The manual illustrates sustainable home design – incorporating building practices – and allow users to create a comfortable and high quality home.

Before building or renovating, this manual will equip you with the knowledge to take to builders and designers.

What is the Energy Smart Housing Manual?

The Energy Smart Housing Manual is a comprehensive and easy to read manual that explains six key energy efficiency concepts specific to Victorian regulations and climate conditions, and how incorporating these design guidelines will contribute to greater energy efficiency to maximise comfort levels year-round.

The six key concepts

Sun and climate
Understand how the position of the sun and Victoria's different climates affect the energy needs and comfort of your home.

Siting
Provides guidelines on siting your home on the block to maximise Winter warmth, regulate Summer heat and improve solar access.

Windows

How window size, position and window coverings affect energy efficiency.

Insulation
Understand the properties of different types of insulation for different parts of the building and best practice installation.

Thermal mass
How thermal mass affects energy efficiency and guidance on how to make best use of thermal mass in a building.

Air leakage and movement
How to control unwanted air leakage and save energy.

A punishing Australian summer is coming. Here's what you can do now to beat the heat

Get ready for a hot summer. Predictions say this one could be among the hottest on record and, due to climate change, it might be one of the coolest in the next few decades. With longer, hotter summers and barely-there winters, it's time to start thinking about how to keep our homes cool and comfortable against the oppressive temperatures.

Here are some easy, effective ways to beat the heat and stay chill this season.

1. Insulate like you mean it

Insulation is one of the best investments you can make if you want to stay cool while saving on bills. According to Cyanergy, a well-insulated home can cut energy costs by up to 45% to 50% and pay for itself in five to six years.

"A lot of heat comes in through the roof," says Bruce Rowse, sustainability expert and founder of the Sustainability Education Academy.

"Think where the sun is for most of the day – straight above. So, ceiling insulation is needed. If your ceiling insulation is less than 10cm thick, you should be putting it in. Fifteen centimetres of insulation is now becoming the norm."

2. Seal up those sneaky gaps

“Hardware stores sell inexpensive weather seals,” Rowse says. “Use these to seal all doors opening to outside. Also, consider sealing bathroom and toilet doors and keeping them closed if there are windows you can’t close, which is often the case with toilets with exhaust fans.”

Every little gap around windows, doors and even baseboards is like a tiny escape hatch for your cool air. And when it’s 40C out, that’s a big deal.

3. Shade it up with exterior covers

Why let the sun even get close to your windows?

Adding exterior plantings, shades or awnings can make a huge difference, especially for windows facing the sun’s harshest angles. Studies show external shading can significantly reduce indoor temperatures, particularly in sun-drenched areas.

“The advantage of awnings,” Rowse says, “is that you can open them up in winter when you want that radiation to warm the home. It’s the same with deciduous plants. You could even add small shades over individual windows.”

4. Cool it with colour: reflective paints and light colours

When it comes to cooling your home, colour matters more than you'd think. Surfaces that get direct sunlight (such as walls and roofs) absorb and radiate heat, warming up your whole space. That's where colour and special paints can be game-changers. Light colours, especially white, naturally reflect heat rather than absorb it.

"Paints designed to reflect radiation have been around for some time but are not yet widely appreciated," Rowse says. So-called "cool roofs", which are light in colour and with these special paints, can significantly reduce heat gain through roofs. Particularly when there is no insulation in the roof (and it is difficult to retrofit). These are well-suited for northern Australia.

5. Keep your AC fit with regular filter changes

Filters are like the lungs of your air conditioning system. When they're clogged up, your AC has to work harder, which can boost energy use by 5% to 15%. A clean filter is crucial. It keeps airflow strong and improves indoor air quality. Swapping out or cleaning filters every three months, especially during peak summer months, can help your AC work better, cool faster and even keep your air fresher.

6. Use fans to create a natural breeze

“Air movement is often under-utilised to provide cooling. Fans don’t actually lower the temperature but they provide a 3C to 5C cooling effect,” Rowse says.

“Whether it’s a ceiling fan or a simple desk fan, they’re low-cost, energy-efficient and an easy way to keep the place nice and cool.”

7. Embrace the night chill with cross-ventilation

If you’re in an area where it cools down at night, take advantage of it.

“Open the house up at night when it’s cooler – windows and doors open. And close it up during the day with the curtains closed,” Rowse says. “The idea is to let cold air in at night to cool the house and stop warm air and solar radiation from coming in during the day. I’ve been doing this for years.”

Cooling solutions for renters: a real need

If you’re renting, staying cool sustainably can be tricky since many landlords aren’t keen on structural upgrades such as insulation or AC.

Sweltering Cities, a tenant advocacy group, has highlighted the extreme heat many renters face, with reports of indoor temps reaching 40C during heatwaves.

Rowse offered some advice for renters to help keep the heat out: “Thick floor-to-ceiling, thermally lined curtains can help reduce heat conduction through windows.” He also

highlighted some technologies available to help keep our bodies cool in extreme heat conditions, such as cooling vests.

“It’s far more efficient to cool a person than a whole house,” Rowse says.

Whether you’re a home owner or a renter, these tips can help you face the hottest days while shrinking your carbon footprint. So this summer beat the heat with these sustainable home hacks and enjoy a cooler, greener and more refreshing season.

Indoor air quality

Key points

- Many of us spend a lot of time inside our homes, so indoor air quality is important.
- The air inside our homes can be affected by various pollutants, including dust, mould spores, smoke and combustion products, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).
- At high enough levels, air pollutants can cause or exacerbate various health problems. Indoor air quality is of particular concern if you have asthma or other conditions that affect your breathing.
- You can take steps when designing, renovating or maintaining your home to ensure good air quality. These include:
    - designing for good ventilation
    - minimising soft floor coverings and furnishings that cannot be easily cleaned
    - ensuring kitchen and bathrooms vent to the outdoors
    - minimising the use of products with VOCs
    - keeping surfaces and furnishings clean.

Indoor air pollutants

There are many different types of indoor airborne pollutants. Some types of pollutants and allergens are more common than others, and some are more hazardous than others. The following section describes various air pollutants that may be found in the home, from more to less common.

Dander and dust mites

Pet dander and dust mites can aggravate hay fever, asthma, nasal inflammation and eczema. Dander and dust mites are generally present in soft furnishings, including carpet, bedding and furniture.

To reduce the amount of dander and dust mites in your home, install hard flooring or vacuum often with a high-quality vacuum cleaner. Wash bedding and other soft furnishings frequently, and replace pillows and cushions regularly.

Victorian Energy Upgrades for homes

Take advantage of the discounts by choosing energy-efficient products for your home.

Why you should use the VEU program

Save money on your energy bills

Investing upfront in energy-efficient products pays off with significant long-term savings.

Efficient electric alternatives are now cheaper to run compared to gas.

Take advantage of the discounted appliances

You can receive discounts or rebates on equipment and appliances that help save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Instead of a like-for-like replacement, choose energy-efficient products and take advantage of the discounts and rebates available.

See the full range of products available for a VEU discount or rebate.

Help save the environment

Electrifying homes is crucial for meeting the state's 2030 emissions reduction targets.

Did you know?

Upgrading hot water can save up to $330 annually.

You can save up to $370 in operating costs annually when you install or replace an existing gas space heater with an efficient reverse cycle air conditioner or up to $1,010 annually when removing and replacing an existing ducted gas heater with an efficient reverse cycle air conditioner.

Over 2.4 million Victorian households have benefitted from the program since 2009.

The VEU program will save 37 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions for Victoria between 2022 and 2027. That's equivalent to taking more than 11 million cars off the road for a year.

How to receive a discount

Option 1: Accredited Provider installation

1. Choose the eligible upgrade listed with Essential Services Commission.
2. The VEU accredited provider provides an upfront discount to you.
3. The VEU accredited provider completes the installation of an approved product.

Option 2: Choose your own installer

1. Choose the eligible upgrade listed with Essential Services Commission.
2. Hire a qualified tradesperson partnered with an accredited provider to handle the paperwork and secure your discount.
3. Choose an eligible product.

Your qualified tradesperson:

- provides a quote including the discount
- completes the installation of an approved product
- returns completed forms to the accredited provider to process the discount.

Lincoln was looking for a new heating and cooling system after his old ducted gas heater broke.

He researched several providers before contacting a local business. He was pleased to learn they were a VEU Accredited Provider and could offer him a discount as part of his final installation cost.

They removed and replaced his old ducted gas system with an energy-efficient ducted reverse cycle system. Lincoln opted for a unit with a higher Energy Star rating.

While Lincoln has always been keen to electrify his home, the discounts and rebates offered under the program were a huge incentive.

“If I can switch everything to electric, I would prefer that,” he added.

”It’s good that the government is offering discounts to help others switch to electric as well.”

Lincoln discussed the benefits available to other households. “I think with the rising cost of gas, the number one goal for Victorians is knowing that their gas bill won’t be so high on a day-to-day basis,” he said.

“That's what most people will be happy about.”

He added that free electricity is a big drawcard for households opting for solar energy.

How to draught-proof your home

Although your home may be well-insulated and heated, in the cooler months, cold air can leak in and out through gaps around windows, doors, vents, skirting and other areas of your home.

Draught sealing these pesky openings will make sure your home is comfortable all season long, plus it will keep out rain water, dust, noise and insects. The best news is – draught proofing is an easy task to conquer in a weekend.

How to find where the draughts are coming from

How do you find out exactly where the draughts are coming from? The simplest way to pinpoint the source of a draught is to burn a stick of incense in the vicinity of the problem, then closely watch where the smoke drifts. Once you've found the gap, here's what you can do next.

How to draught-proof a door

Unwanted draughts most often enter the house through the gap under the front or back door of your home. The simplest way to stop a draught from a door is to place a rolled-up old bath towel along the bottom of the door or block the draught with a door snake, like this one. Or a draught stop, like this one.

But for a more permanent solution that moves with the door when it swings open and closed, install a plastic or metal door seal with a wiper. This will not only eliminate cold air coming in (and hot warm escaping), it will prevent creepy crawlies, dust particles and noise entering the house.

You'll find draughts may enter your home around the edges of doors too, but this can easily be solved with self-adhesive weather stripping. Weather stripping (also sold as draught excluder), typically comes in a variety of lengths and widths to suit a variety of doors.

How to stop a draught through windows

The same spongy, self-adhesive weather stripping used around doors can also be applied between the sash and frame of your windows. Any gaps that may appear around the edges of your windows can be sealed with caulk (a waterproof sealant and filler).

How to draught-proof vents

Typically spotted in older brick homes, fixed ceiling and wall vents are essential in rooms that have un-flued gas heating or an open fire, and in hot and steamy areas (such as your bathroom, kitchen and laundry) to allow satisfactory ventilation.

In other rooms, they’re just draughty holes! If they’re not essential in your home, you can look for (or make) vent covers, replace the old vents with closable versions or remove the vent and plaster the area.

The Best Way To Clean Venetian Blinds And Window Tracks

Venetian blinds are a great addition to your home setup. These are the most beautiful and flexible window covering options, offering complete light control, privacy and aesthetic value to your living space. Their adjustable slats let you regulate airflow and sunlight, while the diverse designs and materials can enhance your abode's overall look and feel.

However, keeping each blind clean and shiny is one of the most daunting chores. These take a lot of time and energy to dislodge accumulated dust, grime and stubborn stains. The more challenging part is cleaning window tracks due to a lack of accessibility. For renters/tenants, window tracks and blinds are important areas during a detailed end of lease cleaning Melbourne. Landlords and property managers thoroughly inspect every nook and cranny, and neglecting them can lead to unexpected deductions in security deposits, even if the entire property is clean.

Luckily, this guide comprises of best ways to deep clean Venetian blinds and window tracks like a pro. It can deliver sparkling results in a few minutes to hours, depending on

their size and condition. Clean blinds and window tracks can promote healthy indoor air, helping you pass the rental inspection with ease.

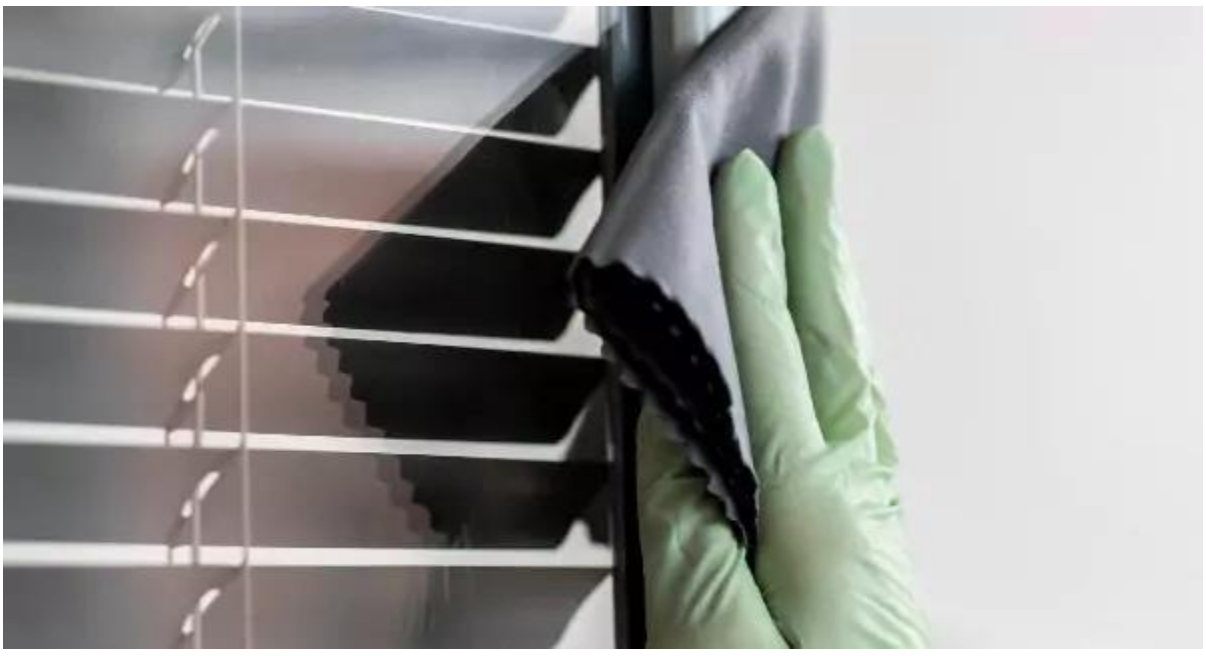
1. Arrange Necessary Cleaning Supplies

You'll need essential cleaning products and tools to dislodge dirt, grime and gunk from every nook and cranny of your Venetian blinds and window tracks. Ensure you have:

- Microfiber cloths and feather dusters
- Vacuum machine with a crevice tool
- White vinegar
- Baking soda
- Toothbrush (an old one)
- Baking soda
- Garden house
- Non-abrasive sponge
- Hand gloves
- Hot water

Note: Avoid using store-bought cleaning products, as these contain hazardous chemicals that may discolour your blinds or cause indoor air pollution. Excessive usage can even trigger your pre-existing allergies and asthma symptoms. Instead, use eco-friendly cleaning solvents that are efficient, safe and affordable.

2. Eliminate Loose Dust and Debris From Blinds



Dusting is one of the most effective ways to prevent the grime buildup between each slat. Do it once or twice a week, and stay consistent. To begin the process, close the blinds and ensure all slats are in one direction. Next, remove dust bunnies, grime and other allergens using a microfiber cloth or a vacuum cleaner with a brush attachment. Dusting one side of the slats from one end, top to bottom, can save you a lot of time and energy. Rotate and repeat the same for spotless results.

You can also hire budget end of lease cleaning Melbourne professionals if preparing for the final rental inspection. They use a specialised blind cleaning brush to efficiently remove dust from each slat in no time. With their assistance, you can deep clean the entire property and impress your fussy landlord.

3. Deep Clean Slats Using Vinegar: Remove Stains and Grime

For stubborn stains, mix vinegar and warm water in a spray bottle and apply it over the filthy area. Leave it for a few minutes before scrubbing it with a sponge or a soft-bristled brush. Ensure you dry the blinds with a dry cloth to prevent moisture buildup, water spots and rust.

4. Soak Plastic and Aluminum Blinds to Dislodge Heavy Dirt

Sometimes, your blinds need detailed cleaning to remove heavy soil and buildup. In such a situation, take down the blinds and soak them in hot, soapy water for 20 minutes. This will break down gunk, grease and heavy soil.

After that, grab a sponge or brush and scrub each slat from top to bottom. Ensure you rinse with clean water to remove soap residue.

Tip: Air-dry by hanging them up to prevent water spots and stains.

5. Gently Clean Wooden Venetian Blinds

Wooden blinds are prone to moisture buildup and damage. However, it tends to look dull and dingy due to dirt accumulation. So, it is good to wipe your wooden blinds using a damp cloth. You can polish the finish using olive oil. Believe it or not! Clean and well-maintained window blinds are great for feng shui. It allows natural light inside the rooms, which promotes a positive home environment.

Tip: Avoid using excess water or abrasive tools, as these could leave scratches behind or make your slats look discoloured.

6. Deep Clean Window Tracks

Do not forget window tracks when cleaning your home, especially before the final rental inspection. It is one of the hard-to-reach spots if you don't have the proper tools. Here is a quick guide for spotless results:

- Remove accumulated dust and debris from tight tracks using a vacuum cleaner with a crevice brush attachment.
- Spray white vinegar and warm water solution and leave it for a few minutes
- Gently scrub using an old toothbrush to get into nooks and crannies
- Sprinkle a generous amount of baking soda to kill germs and grease. Gently scrub the area again
- Wipe away the residue with a damp cloth

7. How to Keep Window Blinds and Tracks Dust-Free?

Whether it's your own home or a rental property, incorporating good and easy cleaning habits can make a world of difference. It is good to regularly clean your Venetian blinds and window tracks. It is good to dust the blinds once a week. You can create a weekly cleaning schedule or divide tasks accordingly for better outcomes.

Using anti-static spray on the slats can help repel dust. If you are moving out of your rental property in Victoria, consider hiring seasoned end of lease cleaning Melbourne experts and meet the landlord's cleaning expectations in a breeze. They clean window tracks, blinds and other difficult spots with perfection and help you secure a full bond back.

Repairs in rental properties

Repairs are either ‘urgent’ or ‘non-urgent’. Rental providers must make urgent repairs immediately. Rental providers must make non-urgent repairs within 14 days of getting a written request.

There are rules for what happens if a rental provider ignores a request for a repair to be made.

Renters must continue to pay rent even if they are waiting for a repair to be made.

- The difference between urgent and non-urgent repairs
- List of urgent repairs
- Organising and paying for repairs
- Who can make a repair
- Paying rent during repairs
- Rental provider does not respond to a request
- Rules when the renter is at fault
- Efficient replacements
- Resolving disputes and issues
- Rental providers and tradespeople entering the property

The difference between urgent and non-urgent repairs

The law defines a list of urgent repairs. Anything else is a non-urgent repair. A repair is non-urgent if the renter can continue to safely live in the property. Non-urgent repairs include things like a broken dishwasher or loose bathroom tiles.

- List of urgent repairs
- burst water service
- blocked or broken toilet system
- serious roof leak
- gas leak
- dangerous electrical fault
- flooding or serious flood damage
- serious storm or fire damage
- an essential service or appliance for hot water, water, cooking, heating, or laundering is not working
- the gas, electricity or water supply is not working
- a cooling appliance or service provided by the rental provider is not working
- the property does not meet minimum standards
- a safety-related device, such as a smoke alarm or pool fence, is not working

- an appliance, fitting or fixture that is not working and causes a lot of water to be wasted
- any fault or damage in the property that makes it unsafe or insecure, including pests, mould or damp caused by or related to the building structure
- a serious problem with a lift or staircase.

Non-urgent repairs

- be in writing
- include the date on the request.

Your maintenance responsibilities

What is responsive maintenance?

If you need maintenance or repairs due to normal wear and tear or damage caused by your household or visitors, please contact the Housing Call Centre on 13 11 72.

The time it takes to do a repair or installation depends on how urgent or complex the work is.

Your maintenance responsibilities

- As a renter, you must look after your home and do small routine repairs like:
- Replacing light globes
- Testing smoke alarms
- Pest control
- Looking after your garden
- General cleaning.

If there is a reason why you cannot do these things (for health reasons or due to a disability), contact your local housing office.

We are not able to arrange repairs for your personal items like your television, fridge or washing machine.

Considering property damage

- Support workers
- Treating health practitioners
- Witnesses
- Police.

How will any anti-social behaviour affect my tenancy?

Any threats, assault or intimidation of staff or maintenance contractors by renters is taken very seriously. If an incident occurs involving a renter and a staff member or contractor, the local Homes Victoria Housing office will investigate the complaint in accordance with the department's Tenancy Breaches Operational Guidelines and follow the appropriate legal process under the Residential Tenancies Act.

Conclusion

Creating a comfortable home in Melbourne is about balancing climate challenges, healthy living, and practical upkeep. From managing summer heat and winter chills to improving air quality, saving energy, and staying on top of repairs, every step contributes to a better daily experience. Whether you live in a rental, public housing, or your own property, making small, consistent changes can greatly improve comfort and wellbeing. Keeping your home clean, maintaining essential systems, and using available resources such as government programs all play a role in shaping a living space that supports health, balance, and peace of mind. By applying the ideas in this guide, you can enjoy a Melbourne home that feels inviting, sustainable, and truly comfortable.

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