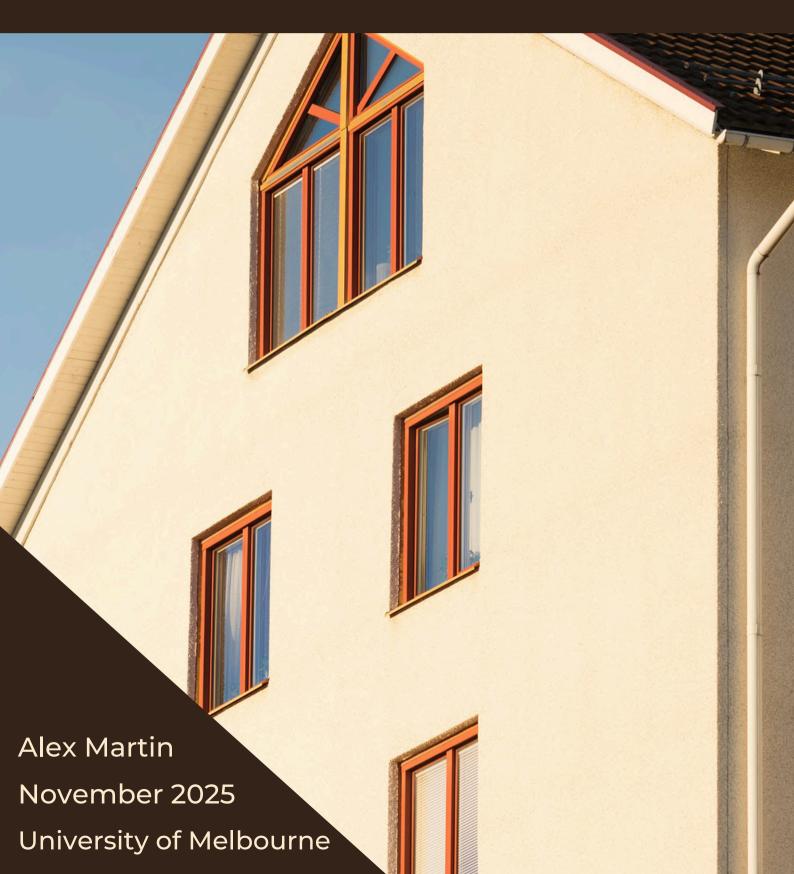
# HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS AND THEIR EVERYDAY USES



#### **Abstract**

Household essentials play a valuable role in maintaining a safe, functional, and comfortable living environment. From basic tools and electrical equipment to cleaning supplies and everyday home maintenance items, these essentials empower individuals to complete common household tasks independently. This document explores the importance of having the right household essentials, their everyday uses, and how they support energy efficiency, safety, and proper upkeep of the home. By understanding the correct use and benefits of these items, households can improve daily living, reduce long-term repair costs, and create a healthier environment for everyone.



## **Getting Started**

A well equipped household does not require expensive or advanced tools. Instead, it starts with having practical and reliable items that support simple day-to-day tasks, fixing loose fittings, assembling furniture, cleaning surfaces, and ensuring electrical safety. Before exploring different household essentials, it is important to understand your home's needs, the types of tasks you perform regularly, and the level of care required for different areas such as kitchen spaces, bathrooms, and outdoor zones.

This guide will walk you through essential items, why they matter, and how to use them safely and effectively. Whether you are a homeowner, tenant, or someone moving into a new space, these easy to follow insights will help you feel confident in managing basic responsibilities around your home. With the right essentials and knowledge, every household can become more secure, efficient, and well-maintained.

## Buying and using electrical equipment



Keeping your electrical equipment safe and in good working order will help protect you and your family.

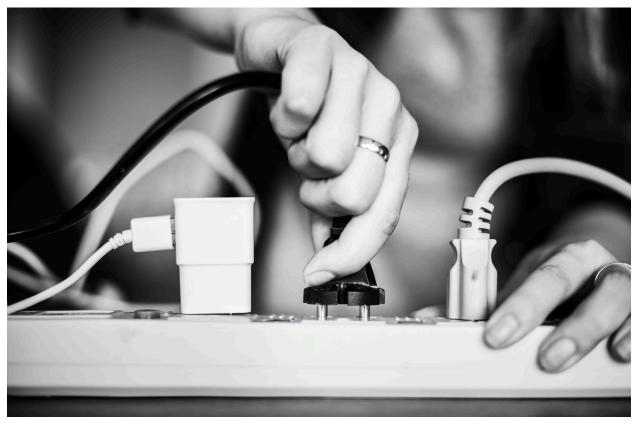
Electrical equipment includes both plug-in appliances like washing machines, hair dryers, TVs or power tools, as well as hard-wired equipment like hot water systems and air-conditioning units.

## **Buying electrical equipment**

If you're buying electrical equipment and appliances make sure they have the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM). The RCM means the product has been tested, is compliant and meets Australian Standards.

Non compliant appliances can cause electric shock, fire, injury or death. You may not get a refund or exchange if your product turns out to be non-compliant or faulty. It can be dangerous to buy electrical appliances on the internet from overseas sellers as they might not comply with Australian safety standards or have information about how to use them safely.

#### Check it out before you plug it in



Check your electrical appliances and equipment before you plug them in and use them. The following could cause a fire or electric shock:

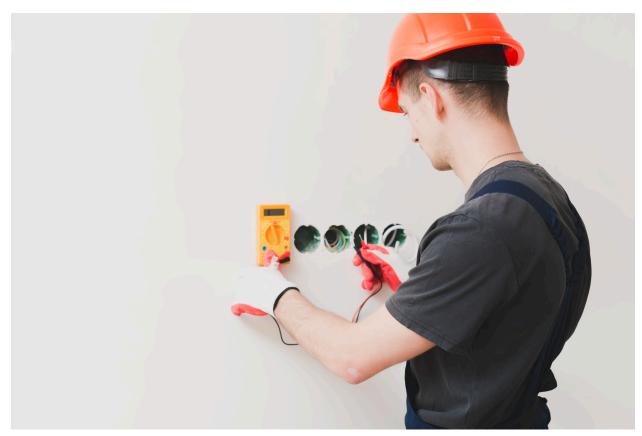
- broken casings and cracked plastic covers
- changes in colour from overheating and moisture
- water in the appliance
- frayed leads or damaged plugs
- damaged extension leads
- full or dirty filters.

#### Safety tips

- Only use appliances for what they're meant for.
- If the appliance is for indoor use only, do not use outdoors.
- Do not immerse the appliance in water unless it is designed for this purpose.

- Keep hands, fingers, feet, toes and hair away from dangerous moving parts like cutting blades.
- Water and electricity do not mix, don't use electrical appliances around water like in the rain or the bath and don't touch them with wet hands.
- Do not use a damaged appliance.
- Do not let children play with the appliance.
- Remove the plug from the socket-outlet before cleaning or maintenance.
- Do not place cord extension sockets or portable power outlet boards where they may be splashed or where moisture may get in.
- Ensure ventilation holes or outlets are not blocked or partially obstructed.
- If the supply cord or plug is damaged stop using it and throw it away or get it repaired.
- Maintain appliances to ensure a long, useful life and to avoid electric shock.
- A safety switch can enhance electrical safety when using electrical appliances.

## Using electricity safely



Stay safe at home by ensuring all electrical appliances and equipment are in good working order.

#### **Overview**

The safe and efficient use of electricity in the home is important for your family's welfare and may assist you to reduce electricity usage and your costs. Keep your family safe by ensuring all electrical appliances and equipment in and around your home are safe to use and in good working order.

#### Safe use of electrical appliances and equipment

Follow these simple tips for keeping electrical appliances and equipment in good working order and making your home safe.

- Never use an ageing or faulty electrical appliance including an appliance with a frayed cord, cracked or broken plug, or any appliance that has given someone any kind of shock. Frayed or damaged cords should be replaced immediately or the appliance disposed of. Many old plugs do not have safety barriers between the connections – replace them with modern plugs or dispose of the appliance.
- All appliances must have a regulatory compliance mark (RCM) and the plugs must have insulated pins, as per the images below.



 Do not attempt to repair faulty electrical appliances yourself – only qualified repair technician or a licensed electrician can repair appliances.

- Do not touch or attempt to repair a loose, cracked or broken power point switch cover it immediately and arrange for a licensed electrician to replace it.
- Avoid 'piggybacking' adaptors, instead use a power board with a built-in safety device.
- Service appliances in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Clean the lint filter in your clothes dryer after each use.
- Check electric blankets at the start of each winter for damaged wires, plugs, leads and hot spots dispose of any electric blanket that is damaged.
- Remove any build-up of materials around the electric motor of exhaust fans, such as fluff, dust, lint etc.
- Clean rangehood filters regularly.
- Clean ovens and cook tops regularly to prevent the build-up of spilled fats and burnt foods.
- Do not spray household cleaners, detergents and insecticides on electrical accessories they may cause cracking and create an electrical hazard.

#### **Buying safe electrical appliances**



Read more on what to look for when buying electrical appliances and equipment in store and online here.

#### Keeping kids safe



Electrical injuries in children are most commonly caused by poking objects inside appliances or unused power points, or by playing with appliances.

- Tips to protect your children from electric shock
- Use childproof plugs in unused powerpoints so they can't push objects into the sockets.
- Switch off and unplug all electrical appliances when not in use.
- Don't permit children to touch or play with electrical cords and make sure electrical cords are not dangling from benches or within your child's reach.
- Use power boards with inbuilt safety switches when plugs are unavoidably within your child's reach.
- When they are old enough to understand, explain the dangers of electricity and teach them how to use your household electrical appliances safely.

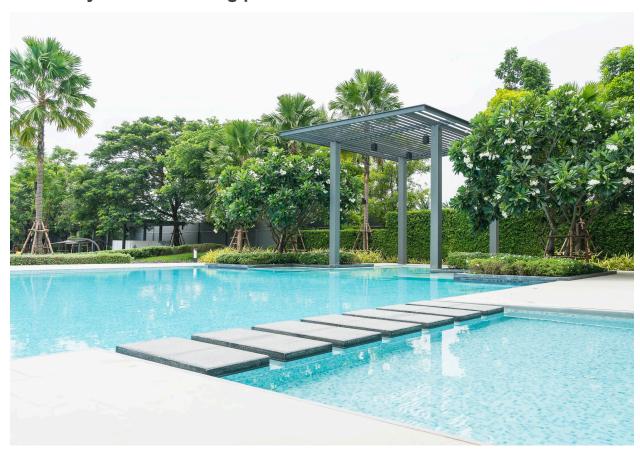
#### Water and electricity

Water and electricity do not mix. Follow these simple tips to ensure the safe use of electrical appliances near water and the safety of your family.

- Never use any electrical appliance near water.
- Never touch anything electrical with wet hands or bare feet.
- Never leave an electrical appliance where it can fall into the bath or basin.

- Never leave an electrical appliance unattended around children.
- Switch off and unplug all portable electric appliances, such as hairdryers, hair straighteners, shavers, etc. after use.
- Do not use portable heaters in bathroom areas use a strip heater installed high on the wall or a ceiling unit installed by a registered electrical contractor.
- Take extreme care when using electrical appliances near sinks, baths or swimming pools.
- Immediately dispose of an electrical appliance that has been immersed in water.
- Do not use extension leads or power leads in wet areas unless they are specifically designed for that purpose.
- Wear shoes wear rubber or plastic soled shoes when using electrical appliances in laundries, on concrete floors or outdoors – many victims of serious and fatal electrical accidents are barefooted.

#### Electricity near swimming pools can be a lethal



Electric shocks received in the vicinity of a swimming pool are more likely to be fatal than those received in other locations, as bare feet, minimum clothing and wet skin reduce your body's insulation and resistance.

Never use a portable electrical appliance or place an extension cord where it could be splashed or fall into the pool.

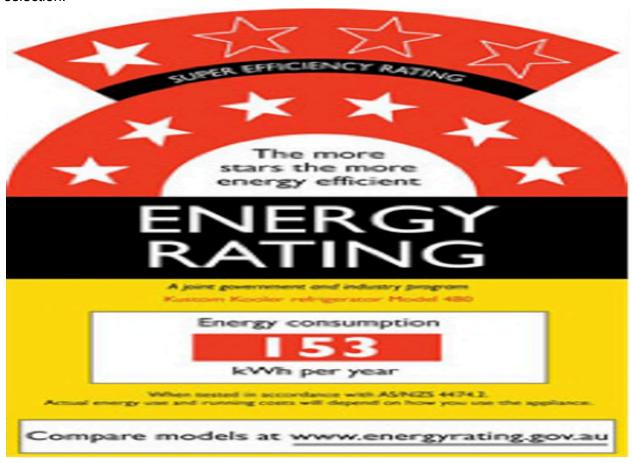
#### Home maintenance and electricity safety

Follow these tips to ensure your safety while carrying out home maintenance.

- Keep clear of electric wires attached to your house or shed.
- When using a metal ladder, be aware that metallic contact with the ground increases the risk of receiving a shock ensure your ladder has rubber 'feet'.
- Ensure the flexible cord of your electric edge trimmer or electric lawn mower is kept away from the blade. If the cord is damaged, switch the power off at the plug immediately. Do not attempt to repair the appliance yourself either dispose of it or have it repaired by a licensed electrical tradesperson.

#### **Energy efficiency**

When purchasing household electrical appliances, look for the Energy Rating Label (ERL) to help you select the most efficient appliance – this may assist you to reduce your electricity usage. ERLs are designed to make the energy efficiency of a product a key feature in its selection.



## Household electrical appliances that must carry energy labels include:

- Televisions and computer monitors
- Refrigerators and freezers
- Dishwashers
- Clothes washers and dryers
- Air-conditioners

Storage water heaters are also subject to Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS). Energy Safe approves this equipment so it can be supplied or offered for sale and conduct compliance audits of retail showrooms to ensure relevant equipment is registered and correctly labelled for energy efficiency. Testing of equipment is also undertaken to verify and ensure the claims made by manufacturers and importers on the energy label are correct.

#### More information

Further information about Energy Rating Labels (ERLs) and Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) can be found on the Energy Rating website.

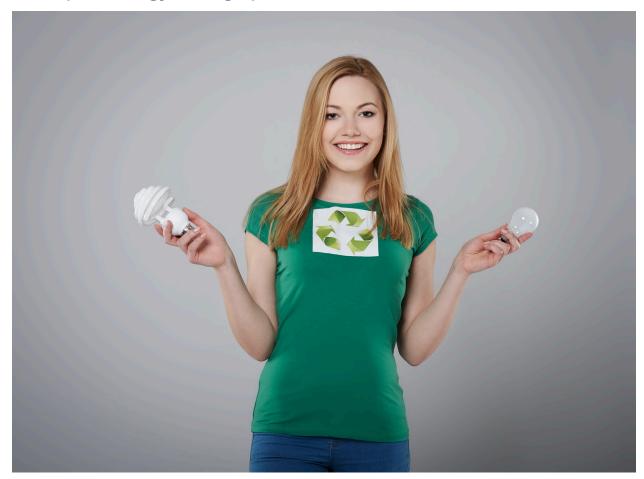
## Top 10 energy saving tips



Learn how you can reduce your energy use and save on bills.

You can do many things to help keep your energy bills down. Here's our top 10 tips for saving energy year-round, and most won't cost you a cent.

#### Our top 10 energy saving tips



## 1. Switch off lights and electrical appliances when not using them

- To save the most energy, switch off the power point rather than leave appliances on standby.
- Turn off your heater, cooling units and appliances when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Switch off your computer and equipment such as printers or Wi-Fi routers overnight or when you're away. Most computers have energy-saving settings that will turn the computer and screen off after a period of inactivity.

## 2. Switch to energy-saving LED light globes

Energy-efficient globes could save up to 80% off your lighting costs. This is because LED bulbs use less power and last longer. That means you spend less money and time replacing them.

#### 3. Shut doors and close curtains



- Shut doors to areas you're not using, and only cool or heat the rooms where you spend the most time.
- In cooler months, make sure your curtains or blinds seal your windows properly.
- Stop cool air leaking out by blocking draughts around doors and windows.
- In warmer months, keep your curtains closed during the day.
- External blinds or canvas awnings will also help keep your house cooler.

## 4. Save energy in how you wash and dry clothes

- Wait until your machine is full before starting a washing cycle.
- Washing clothes in cold water can save around \$115 per year.
- You can also save by selecting the shortest appropriate washing cycle.
- Clothes dryers use lots of energy. Hang clothes outside to dry or use a fan to help dry them indoors.

#### 5. Understand and improve your home's energy use

The Residential Efficiency Scorecard is available across Australia. In the same way as a fridge or washing machine has a star rating, a Scorecard rating shows how much energy is used throughout your home.

Whether selling or renovating, renting or just worried about high energy bills, a home energy assessment can help you save energy and money on bills by identifying your home's features that contribute to high energy bills and the improvements you can make.

#### 6. Save energy in the kitchen

#### **Fridge**



Your fridge runs 24/7 and is one of your most expensive appliances.

The ideal fridge temperature for your freezer is 4 or 5 degrees Celsius and -15 to -18 degrees. Ensure the fridge door seal is tight and that no gaps or cracks let cold air escape. If you have a second fridge or freezer, only turn it on when needed.

#### Cooking

- Put frozen food in your fridge in the morning to thaw out and reduce cooking time in the evening.
- When cooking, use the microwave when you can. Microwaves use much less energy than an electric oven.
- Using a stove, keep lids on pots to reduce cooking time.
- Plan to cook more and have leftover meals for the next day or the whole week. Keep leftover meals in the freezer.

#### Dishwasher

Use the economy cycle on your dishwasher, and only run it when it's full.

#### 7. Manage your heating and cooling



Every degree above 20 degrees can add 10% to your heating bill. In winter, heating can account for over 30% of your bill.

In winter, set your thermostat to between 18 and 20 degrees. In summer, set your thermostat to 26 degrees or above.

Some ducted systems allow you to turn off the heating or cooling to unoccupied rooms.

Save money by switching to more energy-efficient heating. For example, switching from an electric fan heater to a split system can save the average home nearly \$700 a year on bills. The Victorian Energy Upgrades program allows rebates to install more efficient heating in your home.

If you have gas heating and a modern reverse cycle air-conditioner, try using your reverse cycle system in heating mode. This will reduce your winter bills and improve heating efficiency.

## 8. Get the best energy deal

One of the easiest ways to reduce energy costs is to compare energy offers.

Victorian Energy Compare is the Victorian Government's free and independent energy price comparison tool. It compares offers from more than 20 energy retailers across gas, electricity and solar to help you find the best and cheapest energy offers.

You just need access to the internet, a recent bill, and some information about your household. Victorian Energy Compare does the rest.

The comparison only takes about 10 minutes, and users can typically save \$330 a year on energy costs.

## 9. Insulate your roof

An insulated ceiling can make a big difference to your energy bills. Effective ceiling insulation can save you up to 20% on cooling and heating costs.

Find information about insulation at Sustainability Victoria

#### 10. Save money with solar energy



Using solar electricity you generate can reduce the amount of energy you need to buy from your retailer. Solar hot water systems can also help you avoid gas charges using a gas-fired water heater.

Discover more about solar energy, including feed-in-tariffs, incentives, installation and energy companies.

Find out more about how small changes can make a difference to our environment and our future at reduce your carbon footprint.

## The secret cleaning tips the professionals use



Cleaning your house isn't something everyone loves doing. In fact, we'd say most people want to get it over and done with as quickly as possible.

We track down the cleaning professionals and uncover their clever hacks so you can clean your house in half the time.

Here are 11 cleaning hacks from the professionals you'll wish you knew sooner.

Cleaning tips the professionals use

## 1. Buff your wooden furniture with a dry microfibre cloth

"Your furniture will actually get less dusty without using furniture polish," says Becky Rapinchuk, owner of CleanMama.net.

## 2. Vacuum slowly and carefully

It's the only way your vacuum can work most effectively.



## 3. Use a pillowcase to clean ceiling fans

"The pillowcase holds the dust so it doesn't fall on a table or bed," says Leslie Reichert, founder of The Green Cleaning Coach and author of The Joy Of Green Cleaning.

## 4. Give your toilet bowl a swish every day

Stay on top of cleaning by swishing the existing water that's in the toilet bowl.

## 5. Tackle the easy jobs first

"You'll be inspired to finish the rest of your home," says Reichert. "Depending on your household, the dining room, living room, or a home office are good places to start."



#### 6. Don't get distracted

It's easy to delay cleaning by being distracted by what's on TV or text messages. Turn off all of your devices until the cleaning is done.

## 7. Use your dishwasher

If it's ceramic, metal, glass or hard plastic, you can probably wash it in the dishwasher. "I've never ruined anything by sticking it in the top shelf of dishwasher," says April Lane, owner of April Lane's Home Cleaning in Seattle and a board member of the Association of Residential Cleaning Services International (ARCSI).

#### 8. Vacuum a room horizontally first

According to Rapinchuk, you should vacuum a room horizontally first and then vertically to get all of the trapped dirt.



## 9. Invest in a paintbrush

Reichert uses a stiff paintbrush to carefully sweep around furniture to remove dust and grit. "You are brushing it out away from the furniture so the vacuum can suck it up," she says.

## 10. Have a gameplan

"Cleaning is really like a dance. You start high, work down and around, and carefully observe anything that needs attention," says Beth McGee, author of Get Your House Clean Now: The Home Cleaning Method Anyone Can Master. "As you move around, wipe light switches, door frames, baseboards, walls, working in a circle around a room and not back and forth from one thing across the room to another. Don't get distracted, keep a smooth motion around your home."

## 11. Use tea to mop a timber floor

According to cleaning expert Shannon Lush, tea "contains tannic acid which cleans timber." She suggests you make up a teapot with "4 or 5 tea bags and pour into a bucket of boiling water. Mop the timber with pantyhose dipped in the tea."

#### What Is TSP Cleaner And How To Use It?

Cleaning is an essential part of home maintenance. But not all cleaning tasks are equal; some require more elbow grease than others. When it comes to taking care of stubborn stains or caked-on grease, grime and dirt, professionals and homeowners tend to move towards heavy-duty cleaning solutions to resolve the issues. TSP (trisodium phosphate) is one such extensively used substance. When coupled with warm water, this inorganic substance (Na<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>) acts as a powerful degreaser, stain remover, and cleanser.

TSP is effective on a wide range of surfaces, making it a common cleaning product in both residential and commercial cleaning practices. So, this article will talk about TSP as a cleaner, the various surfaces it can be used on and the correct way to use it. It will also delve into the drawbacks of using this solution so that you can make an informed choice. Understanding how and when to use TSP as a cleaner is essential for deep cleaning your house or doing jobs such as cheap end of lease cleaners Melbourne. Its appropriate application might help you save time while achieving ideal results.

#### 1. What is TSP Cleaner?



TSP, or trisodium phosphate, is a water-soluble crystalline powder that, when mixed with warm water, produces a very powerful cleaning solution noted for its ability to degrease and clean perfectly. TSP is commonly used to prepare surfaces for painting, clean grease from kitchen walls, and eliminate mould and mildew from outdoor spaces. TSP is more aggressive than regular household cleaners, making it excellent for tasks requiring a thorough cleaning.

While its cleaning abilities are quite powerful, TSP should be used with caution. The product is highly alkaline and can cause extensive damage to certain materials if not diluted properly. Due to its corrosive nature, its use has become restricted in some areas due to environmental concerns, as phosphate can harm the health of aquatic ecosystems and cause pollution. In some regions of Australia, TSP alternatives are recommended for use, but it remains an effective choice for tasks like end of lease cleaning in Melbourne, where attention to detail is critical.

#### 2. How to Use TSP Cleaner?

When using TSP for cleaning, always follow the instructions given on the packaging to the last letter. Otherwise you may either end up harming the surface or yourself in the process of using it. A rule of thumb to follow here is to use the least amount of TSP possible to carry out a specific cleaning task.



**Step 1: Gather all your Supplies** 

Before you start washing or dissolving the TSP in water, ensure that you have all of the equipment necessary, which includes a bucket, warm water, waterproof rubber gloves, safety goggles, a sponge or scrubbing brush, and clean rags. TSP is dangerous, so you should always exercise extreme caution when handling it. Wear protective clothing and avoid exposure to it as much as possible.

#### **Step 2: Prepare the Solution**

Mix the TSP powder with warm water according to the instructions given on its packaging. Be sure to follow all the instructions without missing any steps. Typically, 1-2 tbsp of TSP per litre of water is sufficient to handle most cleaning tasks. Stir the solution thoroughly to ensure that the powder has dissolved completely. For lighter cleaning tasks, you can dilute it further by adding more warm water to reduce the strength of the solution.

#### Step 3: Test on a small Area

Before you apply the TSP solution to any surface, always test out a small, inconspicuous section of it. This will help you check whether the solution is compatible to the surface or whether it will corrode it upon use. You'll be able to avoid potential damage if you take this step.

#### Step 4: Apply the TSP solution

Apply the TSP solution you want to clean using a brush or a sponge. Be sure to wring out the maximum amount of solution from the brush or sponge to turn it damp but not completely dripping wet. Avoid working with a dripping brush or sponge, as this can leave behind white streaks or spots after the solution dries. Work in sections to ensure even coverage and allow the solution to sit for a while to break down the dirt and grime.

#### Step 5: Scrub and Rinse

After letting the solution sit for a while, scrub the surface thoroughly with your sponge or brush. For tougher stains, use more pressure or repeat the process as necessary. Once the cleaning is complete, rinse the surface thoroughly using clean water, this will remove any remaining TSP residue. Then, use a clean rag to wipe it down and dry the surface.

## 3. Precautions To Take While Using TSP

TSP is a highly corrosive substance that can harm you if you come in direct contact with it. It can cause burns to your skin and can cause severe eye damage, hence it's imperative that you don protective gear. Always wear gloves, masks and goggles to protect your skin, airways and eyes from irritation. For extra precaution, wear long sleeve clothes when working with them to further limit accidental exposure. If you are using the TSP solution indoors, ensure that the room is properly ventilated to prevent the build-up of fumes.

Do not use the TSP on surfaces such as glass, aluminium, metal, grout, or other sensitive materials, as it can cause etching and damage. After the cleaning is done, make sure to dispose the TSP waste properly and in accordance with local waste disposal regulations. This will help you in reducing the environmental impact of this substance.

#### 4. When To Use TSP Cleaner

TSP is useful for tasks that require deep cleaning like when you are preparing your walls for painting or sticking wallpaper. It is also useful for removing stubborn grease or food stains from kitchen surfaces and for cleaning outdoor areas like patios, decks or driveways. TSP solutions

are often used to deal with mould and mildew, too. For the people who are performing quality end of lease cleaning in Melbourne, TSP as a cleaner can be an invaluable tool for ensuring that every surface in the home is spotlessly clean and ready for inspection.

#### 5. Alternative To TSP Cleaner



Due to the polluting effects, many regions of Australia recommend using TSP alternatives for cleaning tasks. These products are phosphate-free and less harsh in comparison but still effective for general cleaning. If you're concerned about the environment or have restrictions in terms of the surfaces it can be used on, TSP alternatives can come in handy. Some of the alternatives include phosphate-free cleaners, baking soda and vinegar, borax, liquid degreasers, etc.

## Wrapping Up

TSP is a powerful and versatile cleaner that has earned its place as a favourite among homeowners and professionals alike. However, TSP requires caution and proper handling to avoid damage and minimise the environmental impact.

## Repairs and maintenance



## **Key points**

- A regular maintenance schedule will help you to prevent or identify problems early.
- Develop an annual schedule to check and maintain the inside and outside of your home.
- Get expert advice and services where needed, especially for specific problems such as leaks, cracks and settlement, damp, salt, or termites.
- If you have an older home, it may include hazardous materials, such as asbestos or lead paint. Do not try to remove hazardous materials yourself. Get expert advice. Sometimes the best course of action is to seal the material, rather than removing it.

#### **General maintenance**

Repairs and maintenance extend the life of your home, improve its liveability and reduce health risks. With advice from a builder or designer, create a repair and maintenance schedule that prioritises urgent concerns and prevents larger problems from developing. Some of the examples listed below may require advice and repairs by a suitably qualified professional.

#### Outside your home:

Check external painting and touch up as required.

- Repair or seal broken glass and windows with air leaks to reduce draughts and heat loss. Repair windows that are jammed or 'painted closed' and make them operable to improve cross ventilation. A variety of sealing strips, tapes and seals are available from hardware outlets.
- Protect and restore old windows and joinery.
- Check subfloor areas for dampness. Divert groundwater and provide additional subfloor ventilation where existing ventilation is inadequate.
- Check and replace corroded sacrificial anodes in hot water tanks, and check the pressure release valve for operation and leaks.
- Install, repair or replace insect screens to encourage natural cooling and 'night purging' in hot weather.
- Replace insulation that has been moved or damaged in ceilings and fill insulation gaps.
  Older insulation can settle and loses its insulating properties. Check the depth and 'loft' and replace as necessary.
- Replace cracked roof tiles and repair roof ridging, if necessary.
- Clean gutters regularly and check for leaks. Ensure adequate fall to drainage outlet.
- Trim trees and shrubs away from the house.



#### Inside your home:

- Check fridge door seals and replace if necessary. If your fridge is not energy efficient, now might be the time to upgrade to one with a high energy star rating.
- Install smoke detectors in correct locations and check the batteries in them.

- Check for air leaks. Fit dampers to chimney flues (or insulate if unused), seal around windows and doors, and fill cracks and gaps to reduce draughts.
- A thermal imaging camera can help to detect water leaks, shifted insulation and other issues. A qualified professional can assist.
- Have your heating and cooling systems checked and maintained by a qualified professional.
- Paint and repair walls and ceilings with low-VOC (volatile organic compound) paints to improve amenity and air quality.
- Consider replacing doors so you can 'zone' areas to control heat flow.
- Remove worn carpets, which can be a source of dust mites and allergens.

## Arranging maintenance and repairs



We would like to hear from you as soon as you need any maintenance or repairs. To request maintenance, complete the online form or contact the Housing Call Centre on 13 11 72. The Housing Call Centre arranges most responsive maintenance for public housing properties.

## **Contact the Housing Call Centre**

Contact the Housing Call Centre if your home needs responsive maintenance - repairs that are needed because of normal wear and tear, or damage caused by your household or visitors. You can contact them in three ways:

- Call 13 11 72
- Use the online maintenance form
- Email tenant.maintenance@dffh.vic.gov.au

If you phone the Housing Call Centre, a customer service representative will ask for:

- Your full name
- Your address
- Your telephone number
- What maintenance you wish to report.

We will then report your maintenance to our contractors for action.

The time it takes to do the repairs depends on how urgent or complex the maintenance issue is.

#### Information Collection

Your privacy is very important.

In order to log your request for repairs with our head contractor we will need to confirm your identity either by you providing your password or by you answering a number of questions which relate to your tenancy with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

The information you provide about the repair on your property including the address as well as your contact details will be recorded in our housing ICT system HiiP and shared with the maintenance contractor for them to undertake the work. HiiP is a secure ICT system.

Without this information we are not able to process your request for repairs.

The information you provide about yourself is collected, retained, and used in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and the Public Records Act 1973 (Vic). You are able to request access to this information, or request that your information be corrected through making contact with your local housing office. You can also request access through contacting Freedom of Information by email foi@dffh.vic.gov.au or phone (03) 9096 8449 or 1300 475 170.

For more information on how the Department manages your personal information, please refer to the department's privacy policy which can be downloaded from the department website's privacy policy page.

## Conclusion

Household essentials are more than just basic tools and supplies—they are the foundation of a well-functioning and safe living environment. By equipping a home with the right items and understanding their everyday uses, individuals can confidently manage minor tasks, prevent avoidable issues, and maintain the overall comfort and efficiency of their space. From ensuring

electrical safety to keeping surfaces clean and well-maintained, each essential item contributes to a healthier and more organized lifestyle.

As homeowners and tenants become more informed about proper usage, maintenance responsibilities, and safe handling practices, they can reduce reliance on costly professional services and extend the lifespan of their home assets. Ultimately, knowing how to choose, use, and care for essential household tools empowers people to create a living environment that supports convenience, sustainability, and long-term wellbeing.

#### References

Buying and using electrical equipment | electricalsafety.qld.gov.au | Retrieved on 16th | From <a href="https://www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au/electrical-equipment/buying-and-using-electrical-equipment/buying-alectrical-equipment/buying-alectrical-equipment/b

Using electricity safely | energysafe.vic.gov.au | Retrieved on 16th | From https://www.energysafe.vic.gov.au/community-safety/energy-safety-guides/home-safety/using-electricity-safely

Top 10 energy saving tips | energy.vic.gov.au | Retrieved on 17th | From <a href="https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/households/save-energy-and-money/top-10-energy-saving-tips">https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/households/save-energy-and-money/top-10-energy-saving-tips</a>

The secret cleaning tips the professionals use | bhg.com.au | Retrieved on 17th | From <a href="https://www.bhg.com.au/lifestyle/the-secret-cleaning-tips-the-professionals-use">https://www.bhg.com.au/lifestyle/the-secret-cleaning-tips-the-professionals-use</a>

What Is TSP Cleaner And How To Use It? | <u>endofleasecleanersmelbourne.com.au</u> | Retrieved on 18th | From <a href="https://www.endofleasecleanersmelbourne.com.au/tsp-cleaner-and-how-to-use-it">https://www.endofleasecleanersmelbourne.com.au/tsp-cleaner-and-how-to-use-it</a>

Repairs and maintenance | <u>yourhome.gov.au</u> | Retrieved on 19th | From <a href="https://www.yourhome.gov.au/buy-build-renovate/repairs-and-maintenance">https://www.yourhome.gov.au/buy-build-renovate/repairs-and-maintenance</a>

Arranging maintenance and repairs | housing.vic.gov.au | Retrieved on 20th | From https://www.housing.vic.gov.au/repairs