



# PRACTICAL TIPS FOR A WELL ORGANIZED HOME



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## Abstract

A well organized home creates comfort clarity and a pleasant living atmosphere. This guide brings together practical knowledge from trusted sources to support simple and effective daily habits. Readers will find helpful ideas on tidying cleaning detailed surface care mould prevention routine maintenance and safe handling of household products. Each section offers clear and manageable steps that promote a cleaner safer and more efficient home. The aim is to provide a smooth and useful reference for anyone who wants to maintain a space that feels orderly healthy and easy to manage.

## Getting Started

Creating a well organized home begins with small steps and steady routines. Start by removing clutter and giving each item a suitable place. Follow with gentle cleaning practices that protect surfaces and create a fresher environment. Once the basic areas are tidy move on to detailed care such as cleaning walls improving ventilation and addressing small maintenance tasks. Keep safety in mind by storing and disposing of products correctly. A calm pace and simple habits will make the process easier and help the home remain pleasant and well maintained.

## 14 Of The Best Home Organization Tips From Experts



There's no magical spell that instantly organizes your abode, but the best home organization tips certainly come close. While the internet may be teeming with advice, these tips stand out

because they come from the brilliant minds of industry professionals who've been assisting people with their organizational skills for years.

We've compiled a list of essential tips that solve the cluttered problem areas around your house or apartment. Whether your refrigerator is a chaotic hodgepodge of food or your home seems to have a stubborn pile of clutter every time you look around, these pointers will help.

## 14 Genius Home Organization Tips to Copy From the Pros



### 1. Implement the “One-Touch” Method

The stacks of items you promise you'll “get to eventually” could be sabotaging your chance at a well-organized home. If you're prone to creating this category that forever sits in limbo, Los Angeles-based professional organizer Meaghan Kessman says the one-touch method will help keep you accountable.

It works like this: The minute you pick up an item, Kessman says “to decide its fate right away.” It could be putting it back where it belongs, recycling it or donating it, but never relegating it to a “deal with it later” pile. This habit is effective if you consistently put it into practice, and it will help you create and maintain an organized home over time.



## 2. Create Fridge “Stations”

Overstuffed and cluttered refrigerators lead to choice paralysis and a mystery about what’s actually available to eat. To cut down on messiness, True Residential brand manager Chelsea Bothe suggests designating “stations” around the shelves and drawers of your fridge or using a separate under-counter fridge for this purpose.

Looking for a few easy ideas? Bothe has seen plenty of inspiring options, including snack sections for kids, smoothie and cocktail stations full of fresh fruits and veggies and pet areas with treats and food that’s ready to go. To personalize your own, consider the people or furry pals you live with and the most common reasons why you rummage through the fridge.

## 3. Make the Most of a Nightly Reset

The key to an organized space is incremental work. While one big organization session is helpful, it doesn’t maintain tidiness day to day. One way to bring in daily organizing that doesn’t require hours every day is through nightly resets.

## 4. Opt for High-Quality Organizational Containers



It’s tempting to choose the cheapest option when it comes to containers. While it’s a quick win, Barbara E. Tanaka, the strategic interior design advisor at Real Estate Bees, recommends putting quality first. This upgrade leads to fewer replacements and better longevity and durability.

Quality bins and containers also tend to have better features, whether they are stronger latches, stacking abilities or multiple configurations. Tanaka says to “look for ones made from tough materials, with lids and stackable designs for efficient storage.”

## 5. Invest in Multipurpose Furniture Items



Keeping a small space organized is no easy task. When you're short on storage space, organization becomes even more difficult. One way to combat this problem is with multipurpose furniture, as there are various styles available that meet several needs rather than one.

Classic examples include sofa beds and storage ottomans. There are also fold-out tables and desks that double as shelves and rolling countertop storage units. While items like these are great for small apartments and rentals, Tanaka notes that these functional “double duty” pieces are also worth putting into forever homes.

## 6. Create Multipurpose Zones

Aside from relying solely on furniture with multiple purposes, you can create zones with the same intention throughout your home. Once these areas have designated uses, it helps you recognize the items that shouldn't be there so that you keep them elsewhere.

Melanie Summers, a home organizing expert and the founder of I Speak Organized, specializes in helping individuals with ADHD in particular. She notes that “this adaptability is crucial for

ADHD minds, which may require frequent changes in their environment to stay stimulated and productive.” She suggests using breakfast nooks for hobbies or crafts and turning a portion of your living room into a work-from-home area.

## **7. Group Chores by Category**

When you consider every chore you need to complete around your house, overwhelm sets in fast. Not only does every room require several tasks, but each organizational process requires certain tools or supplies. It’s impossible to remember everything at all times, which is why home expert Silvia de Denaro Vieira, CEO and co-founder of the home management app Coexist, suggests grouping your chores.

This process entails breaking chores down by what actions and tools are needed. As an example, de Denaro Vieira says “The trash category might include ensuring you always have trash bags, taking out the trash and relining bins.” The same list can be written up for all areas of your home, creating a trackable system and making it easier to distribute the workload among family members or roommates.

## **8. Consider Built-In Storage Based on Needs and Stage of Life**

Storage and organization may not be top of mind if you’re in the middle of a renovation or designing a new home. But you’ll thank your future self for getting these systems in place. Brian Dougherty, vice president of sales for ClosetMaid Pro, notes that there are ample options that are both budget-friendly and highly personalized depending on where you’re at in life.

Whether you need ADA-compliant solutions or built-in units that cater to a growing family, Dougherty says that adjustability and the ability to “modify a system without professional help” offers dwellers “more freedom and independence.” Working with a designer will ensure you get a built-in layout that meets your needs.

## **9. Measure Twice—Always**

You can’t achieve an organized home if your tools and systems are all off. Bins that don’t slot perfectly into their cubbies and shelving units that don’t properly fit all ruin your chances of having a tidy home before you even begin.

To prevent this mistake, professional organizer and founder of Shantaeize Your Space Shantae Duckworth’s most “crucial” tip is taking accurate measurements. She says that skipping this step “can result in a cluttered and inefficient organization system that fails to meet your needs.” While you might be confident in eyeing it, don’t waste your time, money or energy and grab the tape measure.



## 10. Put Your Walls To Work



Walls were made for more than just a nice coat of paint. They're another surface you can use for storage and organization—one that can look great, too. Tina Priestly, home organization expert and founder of Ready, Set, Refresh, says that wall-mounted shelves and hooks are ideal for clearing off other areas of your home (like your countertops and coffee tables).

They're also great places to style decor. She says the goal is to “create visual interest while maintaining functionality.” Tanaka adds that wall-mounted shelving systems “are like magic for making the most of vertical space,” which is often underutilized throughout the home.

## 11. Organize the Fridge by Person (and Add a Lazy Susan)

You've likely sorted the contents of your fridge by food type or meal. But have you ever considered doing so by person? Bothe points out this can be useful, especially in households with children. It's also a perfect methodology for people who have specific dietary needs or apartments with roommates.

Another quick fridge tip from Bothe is incorporating a lazy Susan. While these are common on tables and in pantries, she says they're a great addition for organizing condiments, sauces and other goods. It “not only makes them easy to locate, but it adds an additional layer of styling to the refrigerator,” she says.

## 12. “Eat the Frog” of Your Home Organization List

Perhaps you’ve heard Mark Twain’s saying in another context, but Kessman says it’s sage advice for home organization, too. “Eating the frog” refers to doing something you dread before you do anything else for a sense of accomplishment and to conquer something you might be putting off.

Kessman says the first step is “identifying your most dreaded household task—your personal ‘frog’” and getting it over with. It could be organizing the freezer or finally tackling your coat closet. In doing so, she says the remaining items on your list will feel much easier.

## 13. Color-Code Your Storage Spaces

Neutral hues and their calming effects are popular, but there’s a place for bright colors in your organizing systems, too. Summers explains that a bright palette “not only beautifies the space but also significantly reduces the time spent searching for items,” This is especially true when it comes to creating better systems for neurodivergent brains.

There is no right or wrong way to do this. You can stick with a scheme of primary colors or select your own favorite flashy shades. As an example, Summers suggests “blue bins for work-related materials, red for health and fitness gear and green for recreational items.” Choose a color layout that works for you and is easy to remember.

## 14. Track Your Organization Efforts





Do organizational chores tend to fall by the wayside in your home? A good way to get back on track is to “establish a system to track your agreed-upon chores, frequencies, standards and ownership,” says de Denaro Vieira. There are several benefits to tracking your efforts.

The most obvious is that you’ll see exactly what’s getting done around the house and what might need more attention. Maybe you’re keeping your closet tidy, but food storage containers always seem to spill out of your kitchen cabinets. Tracking also splits the load more evenly between your partner, family members, or roommates and cuts down on arguments.

## Hygiene at home

Studies suggest that coronaviruses (which includes the COVID-19 virus) may be able to survive on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. Coronaviruses on surfaces can be killed through cleaning and disinfection. While cleaning is important, the risk of transmission from a contaminated surface is much lower compared to having close contact with a COVID-19 case.

## Cleaning frequently touched surfaces



Regularly clean these surfaces with a household detergent, followed by disinfectant. Alternatively, you can use detergent/disinfectant wipes as long as you scrub the surface hard:

- doorknobs
- handles
- light switches
- phones

- tablets
- touch screens
- tables
- hard-backed chairs
- remote controls
- keyboards
- desks
- toilets
- sinks/basins
- car steering wheel
- car seats.

## Cleaning less touched surfaces



For general surfaces, using a household detergent solution/wipes for cleaning is adequate:

- floors (use a damp mop rather than dry mopping hard floors)
- walls (clean when visibly dusty or soiled)
- ceilings
- window blinds (clean when visibly dusty or soiled)
- curtains (change regularly in addition to cleaning when soiled).

## What is the difference between detergent and disinfectant?

Detergents help remove germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. By removing them it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfectants are chemical solutions that are designed to 'kill', but not remove, viruses and bacteria. Disinfectants do not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

## What can I use if I don't have disinfectant?

For hard, non-porous surfaces, a diluted household bleach solution can be used in a ratio of four teaspoons of bleach per one litre of water.

Importantly, never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleaner. You need to check the product is not past its expiration date, which makes it ineffective. You must also ensure good ventilation of the area during and after application.

## Arriving home after being outside



Remember:

- wash your hands as soon as you get home, after putting groceries or other items away and before you eat
- clean regularly used items such as your phone and keys.



## Hygiene advice for people living in residential buildings

People living in residential buildings should take care when moving through common areas to reduce the risk of COVID-19:

- Clean your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand rub/sanitiser after touching any frequently touched surfaces in common areas. This includes doorknobs or door handles when you enter and exit the building or when using communal washing machines or dryers
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and sneezing or use your elbow, not your hands
- Avoid close contact with people unwell with cold or flu-like symptoms
- Avoid touching your face and avoid shaking hands with others
- Try to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from others as much as possible in your apartment block, such as in elevators, stairwells or hallways.

## Cleaning guidance for NSW strata managers and body corporates



- Regularly clean frequently touched surfaces in common areas with a detergent followed by disinfectant, or use detergent/disinfectant wipes
- Consider providing adequate alcohol-based hand rub (sanitiser) for residents to use.

## Personal hygiene

In addition to cleaning your home, good personal hygiene can help stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Clean your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand rub/sanitiser
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and sneezing or use your elbow, not your hands
- Avoid close contact with people unwell with cold or flu-like symptoms, and stay home if you have these symptoms
- Avoid touching your face and avoid shaking hands with others
- Try to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from others as much as possible, and avoid crowded places.

Remember, when washing your hands all you need is water and a detergent (surfactant) such as a bar of soap, body wash or shampoo. It doesn't need to be expensive, or 'antibacterial'. The key to handwashing is to wash often and wash well, for at least 20 seconds.

## Hand sanitiser safety and children



Alcohol-based hand sanitiser is dangerous if ingested, particularly for children.

Safety tips for parents include:

- store hand sanitiser products safely and out of reach of children

- any use by young children should be under the supervision of an adult
- be aware of imported products which may not be clearly labelled and may contain more toxic alcohols such as methanol that make the product more dangerous
- washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is a safe and effective option
- at temperatures above 40°C for extended periods of time, there is a higher risk of the alcohol content of hand sanitiser evaporating, so keep hand sanitiser out of the sun and don't leave it in a hot car.
- if you suspect your child has ingested hand sanitiser, regardless of the quantity, call the 24 hour Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 for first aid and monitoring advice. Have the container of the ingested product with you.

## Cleaning and hygiene



Practising proper cleaning and hygiene can help to lower the risk of illness by minimising the spread of food poisoning bugs.

### Wash and dry hands

Proper hand washing is one of the most important and easiest ways to prevent illness.

To wash hands correctly:

- use warm water and soap



- rub hands together for at least 20 seconds, cleaning all surfaces of the hand
- rinse hands well
- dry with a clean towel.

Wash and dry hands thoroughly before starting to prepare or eat any food, even a snack.

Make sure you wash and dry your hands thoroughly after:

- using the toilet
- changing nappies
- smoking
- touching animals
- blowing your nose
- coughing or sneezing into hands
- cleaning surfaces or handling waste, and
- handling raw foods such as raw meat, poultry, eggs and fresh fruit and vegetables.

## Clean kitchen, utensils and eating areas



- Keep benches and tables clean and dry. Wipe down and dry every time food is prepared or served from them.
- Keep kitchen equipment and tools clean and dry. Clean after each use.
- Only use clean plates, cups, utensils, chopping boards etc. Wash after each use.
- Keep tea towels clean and dry and wash them regularly. After using a tea towel to dry dishes, hang it up to dry. If using tea towels to wipe up spills, wash after each use.

- Clean sponges, scourers and dish brushes after each use. Rinse them in hot water and wring out. Alternatively, put them on a hot wash in the dishwasher. Leave to dry before using again.
- Discard sponges, scourers & dish brushes when they show signs of permanent soiling.
- Regularly clean your kitchen sink, using a separate dishcloth or sponge, and sanitising. You can sanitise your sink by filling it with warm water and a tablespoon of bleach. Use this liquid to wipe down the edges, tap and mixer. Leave the sink filled for about 5 to 10 minutes before draining. Rinse with fresh water and allow to air dry.
- For spills on the floor or messes from pets, it's best to use a single-use paper towel.
- Don't let animals into the kitchen or on benchtops and eating areas, if possible. Keep animals' feeding bowls out of the kitchen.
- If you have a dishwasher, run it empty on its hottest cycle twice a year.



## **Avoid cross contamination**

- don't let raw meat and poultry come into contact with other foods. Store raw meat on a plate or in a sealed container at the bottom of the fridge to prevent meat juices dripping onto other foods
- use a separate cutting board and knife for raw meat or poultry. If this isn't possible, wash cutting boards and knives thoroughly in hot soapy water and dry thoroughly before using to prepare other foods
- thoroughly wash and dry all food equipment, such as bench tops and tools, that come into contact with fresh produce

- if using grey water for the garden, don't use it on the vegetable patch or herb garden.

## **Don't make food for others if you're ill**



Some food poisoning bugs carried by people who are unwell with something like diarrhoea can be passed on through food they prepare.

Wait at least 2 days after symptoms of illnesses such as vomiting and gastro have stopped before preparing food for others.

If you have to prepare food for others and you are unwell or have been unwell in the previous 2 days, ask someone else to cook or organise takeaway food. If this isn't possible it's very important to:

- wash hands thoroughly in soapy water and dry before preparing any food
- follow the key food safety tips.

Heat all food to steaming hot, at least 60°C, before serving.

## **Emergencies**

It's critical to continue to practise good hygiene during emergencies.

This can be challenging for a number of reasons:



- access to safe water for cleaning can be difficult
- floodwater can be contaminated with sewage, waste and other substances that can cause illness. Food, surfaces and cooking utensils can be contaminated by unsafe floodwater and splashes
- fires can cause toxic fumes to contaminate food and kitchen equipment, even inside cupboards and fridges.

## How To Clean Painted Walls?



Painted walls are crucial in defining the style and feel of your living space. It sets the tone, promoting positivity and complementing other home décor elements and furniture pieces. Choosing right colours and paint finish can bring comfort, class and elegance to your home set-up. However, over time, dust, dirt, cobwebs, spills, stains and gunk can accumulate on the finish, making your walls look dull and dingy.

Some spots are even laden with grease stains, smudges, adhesive residue and mould spores if not cleaned regularly. Dust-laden painted walls can ruin the feel, downgrade the indoor air quality and lurk lethal germs and bacteria, causing health problems like asthma, respiratory disorders, etc. Luckily, with a few DIY products and the right techniques, you can restore the lost shine of your painted walls.

Follow the cleaning tips from this article and maintain your walls' gleaming shine, texture and colour. The best part is that it covers specific methods for different finish types to prevent damage or costly repairs.

Let's Get Started!

## 1. Consider The Paint Type Before Cleaning

Cleaning is beyond wiping or scrubbing stains and grime. It is important to understand the type of area you are cleaning for optimal results. Painted walls are one of those surfaces that require a specific cleaning approach for different paint finishes. Here are the most common types:

- **Matte or Flat Finish:** It looks chalky without any shine and requires precision to tackle stains and grime. Ammonia-based cleaners or sharp tools can deteriorate its finish.
- **Eggshell or Satin:** It reflects light with a mild sheen. Though satin finish is more durable, ensure you don't use abrasive cleaners and tools.
- **Semi-gloss:** Used in kitchens and bathrooms, semi-gloss is durable and has a beautiful finish. You can use mildly abrasive products to remove stains. However, it can be prone to scratches and marks if not used properly.
- **High-Gloss:** The most durable finish that can be cleaned using detergent and hot water.

It is always good to hire budget end of lease cleaners Sydney to meet the landlord's high expectations at the end of the tenancy.

## 2. Preparing Your Walls & Eliminating Dust



Remove all the distractions, such as picture frames, artworks, paintings, furniture and other hanging items from your walls. This will help you address dust, dirt and grime more efficiently.

Next, grab a telescopic microfiber duster to clean hard-to-reach spots like ceilings. Start from the top to eliminate cobwebs, dust particles and insect marks. A microfiber cloth can easily trap dust bunnies and allergens without spreading them further, making it the most suitable method for people with allergies.

Tip: Cover your upholstery furniture, carpets and rugs to keep dust and mess at bay.

### **3. Clean Eggshell Finish With Mild Detergent and Water**



Eggshell or satin finish is prone to scratches and discolouration. Instead of using ammonia-based cleaning products, use mild cleaners and soft tools to eliminate grease stains, grime and gunk.

Use a pH-neutral cleaner or mild dishwashing soap and warm water solution to wash your walls. Dampen a sponge and clean every nook and cranny from top to bottom. Ensure you pay special attention to areas around light switches and baseboards. The gentle scrubbing and soap reaction duo can dislodge stains in a breeze.

Tip: Squeeze your dampened sponge to remove excess liquid to prevent water streaks.



#### 4. Restore Gloss Finish Using White Vinegar

Believe it or not! Gloss and semi-gloss painted walls are super easy to clean and maintain. You can use acidic and mildly abrasive products to remove stubborn stains, grime and fingerprints. However, end of lease cleaning Sydney professionals recommend using white vinegar, as it is mild yet powerful enough to eliminate tough stains. The best part is that it won't wear out the gloss finish. Here is a step-by-step guide:

- Mix one cup of vinegar and warm water into a spray bottle
- Add a teaspoon of dishwashing liquid
- Spray on the stained spot and scrub using a sponge in a circular motion
- Rinse and wipe with a dry cloth to prevent marks and streaks.

Tip: Always test a cleaning product on an inconspicuous spot to check its compatibility.

#### 5. Baking Soda: A Go-To Fix for Greasy Stains



Whether it's a matte or high-gloss finish, baking soda is one of the most versatile natural cleaners for painted walls. It is mildly abrasive and removes grease, oil and smudges without leaving scratches behind.

Prepare a DIY cleaning recipe by adding one part of baking soda, warm water and dish soap liquid. Dip a sponge and scrub the walls. Do not scrub too hard, as it could cause damage or wear out the paint finish.

Tip: Refer to the property condition report when preparing your property for the final rental inspection. It is important to know your responsibilities and rights as a tenant in NSW, as you are not liable for pre-existing damages and fair wear and tear.

## **6. Use Hydrogen Peroxide For Mould and Mildew**

Hydrogen peroxide is one of the best natural cleaning products to tackle mould and mildew stains. These common fungi spores thrive on damp and dark areas, including painted walls in your bathroom or kitchen. Ensure you detect early signs, musty smell and nasty smell and treat the main cause proactively.

When cleaning painted walls, use 3% hydrogen peroxide and a magic eraser to achieve the best results. Spray, leave it and scrub using a brush or magic eraser. However, ensure cross ventilation in the room to prevent unpleasant odours- open doors and windows.

## **7. Touch Up Whenever Necessary**



If you still see the signs of imperfections, conceal the affected spot with touch-up paint. It is good to hire a professional painter who can apply a fresh coat and restore its pristine shine. This becomes crucial when moving out of your tenancy. It is important to know your responsibility as a tenant and book seasoned end of lease cleaners in Sydney to impress your landlord and secure full bond money. They can clean painted walls leaving no signs of dirt and grime behind while giving a sense of relief at the end of your lease.

## Wrapping Up

Cleaning painted walls is simple with the help of this guide. It is crucial to understand the type of your painted walls and clean them accordingly to prevent damage or discolouration. Also, prefer using eco-friendly and mild cleaners such as vinegar, baking soda and castile soap to tackle grease and stubborn stains.

## Preventing mould in your public housing home



Mould thrives in warm, damp, and poorly ventilated areas like bathrooms, kitchens, and storage spaces. Mould is a type of fungus that lives in warm, moist conditions. It grows in damp, dark and poorly ventilated areas at home like bathrooms and kitchens, or cluttered storage or basement areas.

## What encourages mould

Moisture encourages mould. Help prevent it using these tips:

- Indoor plants like ferns need moist air, so choose low-water plants like succulents for around the house.
- Fish tanks add moisture to the air, especially tropical fish tanks.
- Portable heaters (kerosene or unfluted gas heater) give off moisture and gas. Always ventilate the area.
- Leaking taps and pipes encourage mould, especially in closed areas like cabinets.



## Things that help to stop mould growth



There are several things you can do to help stop mould growth:

- Open windows and doors to let fresh air in and reduce humidity.
- Open blinds and curtains during the day to let sunlight in.
- Turn on the exhaust fan or open a window in the bathroom, laundry and kitchen to get rid of steam.
- Wipe down tiles to clean off soap scum that mould feeds on.
- Wipe away any moisture on your windows and walls to keep the inside of your home dry.
- Dry your clothes and shoes before you put them away.
- Air out wardrobes and cupboards regularly.
- Use moisture absorbers in basements, wardrobes and closed-off rooms.

## Removing mould from your home

Once mould is present, here are some tips for removing it from your home:

- Never dry brush a mouldy area or item of clothing. This can release spores into the air that spread the mould further and can cause an allergic reaction in some people.

- High-priced specialty mould removers can contain chlorines and bleaches, which are hazardous if not used the right way. They may also only bleach the mould instead of killing it, which means the problem will keep coming back.
- Use appropriate cleaning agents such as white vinegar or mild detergent and a microfibre cloth to clean mould off walls, floors and tiles. Make sure to dry the area thoroughly after wiping mould off surfaces. Regular vacuuming, dusting and cleaning in kitchens and bathrooms helps prevent mould. The earlier you find and remove mould, the easier it is to keep it under control. It's much harder to remove mould once it takes hold.

## Report rising damp

Rising damp is moisture from the ground travelling up into your home through the bricks or stone in walls. If you suspect that rising damp is causing a mould problem in your home, report it to the Maintenance Hub right away. If you live in community housing, contact your housing provider to report severe mould problems.

## These home maintenance hacks could save you thousands



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There's a unique sense of pride that comes with homeownership; the joy of stepping through a freshly painted doorway, or finally fixing that leaky tap that's been on your list for months. But for many Australians (myself included), keeping up with home maintenance is often easier said than done.

With the festive season fast approaching, bringing with it more hosting, more visitors and plenty of reasons to take pride in your space, there's no better time to give your home the care it deserves. That's why this year, I'm taking a more proactive approach and sharing everything you need to know to do the same. Think of this as your ultimate healthy-home checklist: complete with expert insights and time-saving tools to make maintenance simple, achievable and surprisingly satisfying.



## Your simple home-care checklist

When it comes to home maintenance, especially for those of us who don't love these kinds of tasks, it's best to keep it simple. And luckily, I've tracked down an upkeep checklist consisting of just four categories. Drawing on insights from insurance data and property professionals, these steps are what the experts at Allianz recommend for those looking to keep their homes in top shape all year round.



## 1. Water

When your water isn't working the way it should, big bills tend to follow. To avoid any plumbing-related issues, check for slow drains, gurgling toilets, and make sure your flexi hoses are operating properly. You should also be keeping an eye on your shower seals and fixing leaks promptly to prevent mould and structural damage.

## 2. Roofing

According to Allianz, roofs only require an annual inspection, so getting it out of the way now saves you the trouble for another 12 months. While you're up there, be sure to clear your gutters and downpipes (which you should be checking on regularly), and consider installing gutter guards to help prevent any storm-related issues.

## 3. Accidental damage

Keeping your home protected against accidental damage is likely easier than you'd think. All you need to do is test smoke alarms monthly, keep fire blankets and extinguishers handy, and secure TVs and tall furniture with anti-tip brackets.

## 4. Home safety

There's no better feeling than knowing your home is totally secure. By installing quality locks, security screens, and motion lighting, you'll be making your home a much safer environment. Looking for extra peace of mind? Try out a smart home security system.



## A new way to keep your home healthy



To make things even easier, Allianz has been trialling a Home Health Check service throughout 2025; an in-home inspection that helps identify potential risks before they become problems. Conducted in more than 200 homes so far, the checks assess everything from drainage and mould to taps, fixtures, and leak detection. Early customer feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, paving the way for a potential national rollout in 2026.

However, if you want to start your maintenance journey now, start with Allianz's prevention page, which is filled with helpful insights and tips on how to ensure your home stands the test of time.

While I fall into the 74% of Aussies that prioritise cosmetic fixes over essential maintenance, I'm pledging to change my ways. And if you fall into the same category, it might be time to do the same. Just as you'd nourish your garden before expecting flowers to bloom, your home needs the same kind of proactive care. By tending to those unglamorous jobs now (cleaning gutters, tightening fixtures, checking seals), you're safeguarding your home and your future in it.

## Conclusion

A well organized home is built through consistent care thoughtful routines and simple mindful actions. By combining effective cleaning practices with regular maintenance and safe household habits any living space can remain comfortable orderly and healthy. The guidance in this

document offers a clear path for creating a home that supports daily comfort and long term wellbeing. With steady attention and practical methods each area of the home can stay clean functional and pleasant for every season.

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