



# A GUIDE TO MODERN TECHNIQUES FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT



## Abstract

"A Guide to Modern Techniques for Home Improvement" explores innovative methods to enhance your living space efficiently and sustainably. This guide covers the integration of smart home technology, energy-efficient upgrades, and the use of sustainable materials to improve both aesthetics and functionality. It also highlights modern cleaning tools and techniques that streamline home maintenance, ensuring a healthier environment.

With an emphasis on durability, design, and eco-friendly choices, this comprehensive guide empowers homeowners to embrace advancements that increase comfort, save energy, and enhance the overall value of their home. Whether you're renovating or simply upgrading, this guide offers practical insights to make informed, modern improvements.

## Getting Started

Before diving into modern home improvement techniques, it's important to assess your home's current condition and identify areas that need updating. Begin by outlining your goals—whether it's boosting energy efficiency, incorporating smart technology, or enhancing overall design. Prioritize projects based on your budget and the time you have available. Research the latest trends in home improvement, such as eco-friendly materials, smart home devices, and modern cleaning methods.

This guide will walk you through step-by-step, offering practical advice on how to make your home more functional, sustainable, and stylish using contemporary techniques. Whether you're a seasoned DIY enthusiast or new to home improvement, starting with a clear plan ensures your projects are successful and long-lasting.

**"Unlock the potential of your home with cutting-edge techniques that blend style, efficiency, and innovation—transforming your living space like never before!"**

## **1. What Are the Best Smart Home Technologies for Modern Living?**

The concept of a smart home has evolved from a futuristic dream into a reality that's accessible to everyone. Whether you're looking to increase convenience, add more layers of security, or simply make your life a little easier, smart home devices can transform your living space in ways you never imagined. From voice-activated assistants to intelligent lighting systems, these gadgets can automate your daily tasks and integrate seamlessly into your lifestyle. In this guide, we'll explore the best smart home devices available today, offering insights into how they can upgrade your space and make your home smarter than ever before.



## Smart speakers

When it comes to building a smart home, smart speakers are often the first step and the heart of your smart home. These devices serve as the central hub for controlling other smart gadgets in your home, allowing you to manage everything with simple voice commands.

**Why you need it:** Smart speakers like the Amazon Echo are more than just audio devices - they're the nerve centre of your smart home ecosystem. With built-in voice assistants like Alexa or Google Assistant, you can control lights, thermostats, locks, and more with your voice. They also double as music players, newsreaders, and even personal assistants, keeping you informed and entertained.

## Smart lighting

Lighting can dramatically alter the ambience of your home by helping you set the mood with a tap or voice command. Smart lighting takes it to the next level; imagine adjusting the brightness, colour, and scheduling of your lights - all without leaving your seat.

**Why you need it:** Smart lighting systems offer unparalleled flexibility and customisation. You can set routines to have lights gradually brighten in the morning, change colours to match your mood, or turn off automatically when you leave the house. These systems also integrate with your smart speakers, allowing you to control them with voice commands.

## Smart thermostats

Managing your home's temperature is easier and more efficient with a smart thermostat. These devices learn your preferences and adjust heating or cooling accordingly, helping you save energy without sacrificing comfort.

**Why you need it:** Smart thermostats like the Nest Learning Thermostat or Ecobee SmartThermostat can be controlled remotely via your smartphone, meaning you can adjust the temperature before you arrive home. They also offer features like scheduling, geofencing (which adjusts settings based on your location), and energy usage reports, helping you save on your utility bills.

## Smart security systems

Home security has never been more advanced or accessible. Smart security systems provide real-time monitoring and alerts, allowing you to keep an eye on your home from anywhere in the world.

**Why you need it:** Whether you're looking to deter intruders or simply monitor your home while you're away, smart security systems offer peace of mind. Systems include everything from door and window sensors to motion detectors and cameras. These systems can send alerts to your phone, trigger alarms, and even integrate with other smart home devices like lights or door locks.

## Smart doorbells

Gone are the days of wondering who's at your door. Smart doorbells not only alert you when someone arrives but also allow you to see, hear, and speak to visitors—whether you're at home or halfway around the world.

**Why you need it:** Smart doorbells like to add a layer of security and convenience to your home. They feature HD video cameras, motion detection, and two-way audio, so you can interact with visitors or delivery personnel in real-time. These devices also save video recordings, allowing you to review footage if necessary.

## Smart locks

Traditional keys are quickly becoming obsolete, thanks to smart locks. These devices allow you to lock and unlock your doors with your smartphone, and even grant access to others remotely.

**Why you need it:** Smart locks provide better security and convenience. You can lock or unlock your door remotely, set temporary access codes for guests or service providers, and receive alerts when your door is locked or unlocked. Some models also work with voice assistants, allowing for hands-free control.

## Smart plug



Smart plugs are one of the most versatile and affordable smart home devices available. They allow you to control anything that plugs into a wall outlet, turning ordinary devices into smart ones.

**Why you need it:** With smart plugs, you can control lights, fans, coffee makers, and more from your smartphone. You can also set schedules, create automation routines, and control devices with your voice via a smart speaker. These plugs are a great way to start building a smart home without a significant investment.

The smart home revolution is here, and these devices offer a glimpse into the future of home living. Whether you're just starting to dip your toes into the world of smart gadgets or looking to expand an already extensive setup, these devices can upgrade your space, making it more convenient, secure, and enjoyable. As technology continues to advance, the possibilities for creating a truly intelligent home are endless. Investing in these smart home devices today is a step toward a more connected and efficient lifestyle tomorrow.

## **2. How Can Energy-Efficient Upgrades Improve Your Home?**

Before you design a new home or remodel an existing one, consider investing in energy efficiency. You'll save energy and money, and your home will be more comfortable and durable. The planning process is also a good time to look into a renewable energy system that can provide electricity, water heating, or space heating and cooling. You may also want to explore your options for financing an energy-efficient home. In an existing house, the first step is to conduct a home energy assessment (sometimes referred to as an energy audit) to find out how

your home uses energy and determine the best ways to cut energy use and costs. To learn more about home energy assessments and find free tools and calculators, go to [Your Home's Energy Use](#), the [Residential Services Network](#), and the [Building Performance Institute](#).

## Whole-House Systems Approach

If you plan to design and build a new home or do an extensive remodel on an existing house, optimizing home energy efficiency requires a whole-house systems approach to ensure that you and your team of building professionals consider all the variables, details, and interactions that affect energy use in your home. In addition to how you use energy, the conditions of where your home is situated, and the local climate, these include:

- Appliances and home electronics
- Insulation and air sealing
- Lighting and daylighting
- Space heating and cooling
- Water heating
- Windows, doors, and skylights.

Before making upgrades, you may also want to work with an energy assessor to use the Home Energy Score. The Home Energy Score is a national rating system, developed by the U.S. Department of Energy, which provides a rating of your home's current efficiency, as well as a list of improvements and potential savings. The Score reflects the energy efficiency of a home based on the home's structure and heating, cooling, and hot water systems. The Home Facts provide details about the current structure and systems. Recommendations show how to improve the energy efficiency of the home to achieve a higher score and save money.



## **Ultra-Efficient Homes**

Ultra-efficient homes combine state-of-the-art energy-efficient construction, appliances, and lighting with commercially available renewable energy systems, such as solar water heating and solar electricity. By taking advantage of local climate and site conditions, designers can often also incorporate passive solar heating and cooling and energy-efficient landscaping strategies. The intent is to reduce home energy use as cost-effectively as possible, and then meet the reduced load with on-site renewable energy systems.

## **Advanced House Framing**

If you're building a new house or adding on to an existing one, consider using advanced house framing (also known as optimum value engineering), which reduces lumber use and waste and improves energy efficiency in a wood-framed house.

## **Cool Roofs**

Cool roofs use highly reflective materials to reflect more light and absorb less heat from sunlight, which keeps homes cooler during hot weather.

## **Passive Solar Home Design**

Passive solar home design takes advantage of climatic and site conditions to provide heating in the winter and cooling in the summer.

# **3. What Are the Latest Trends in Sustainable Home Improvement?**

It's hard to ignore that every year, our summers seem to be warmer and our winters shorter. Like it or not, climate change, the gradual warming of the earth due to trapped CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, is upon us. According to an analysis done by Carbon Brief, of the 504 extreme weather events studied from the past 20 years, 71% were more likely or made more severe by human-caused climate change.

From extreme temperatures and wildfires to flooding and hurricanes, climate change will impact us all in some way. Because of this, builders and manufacturers are adapting, especially in the way we build our homes.

Today, buildings account for nearly 40% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. According to the World Economic Forum, a third occurs during the building process, while the other two-thirds are from when the building is in use.

The good news is that this high percentage could equal a high potential to cut emissions radically. The construction and home industry is already on its way to making necessary changes and innovations. In this article, you will learn about a few ways the home improvement industry approaches sustainability in its practices and how you can get involved, too.

## Mitigation vs. Adaptation

Sustainability efforts can be broken into two categories: mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation refers to the efforts to reduce and eliminate emissions. While there are many ways to go about this, according to the New Buildings Institute, most strategies include increasing a home's energy efficiency, using renewable energy and embracing a circular economy that centers on reusable, recyclable and repairable materials.

Adaptation refers to how we modify our existing and future buildings better to withstand climate change's current and future impacts. Building a house on stilts in an area susceptible to flooding is an example of adaptation.

Besides lowering emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change, homeowners can personally benefit from working with the industry's mitigation and adaptation efforts. Take for example all the incentives for early adopters of solar energy: Until 2033, the federal government is giving a 30% solar tax credit to homeowners who install solar panels. On top of that, not only will you receive a "discount" from the government for adopting solar early, but you'll also enjoy yearly savings (around \$20,000 over the course of the panel's lifespan) and an increase in your home's value.

Not interested in adopting solar energy right now? Don't worry there are plenty of other ways to get in on the home industry's sustainability efforts.

## Ways the Home Improvement Industry Is Approaching Sustainability

### 1. Updating Existing Homes and Structures





Former American Institute of Architects president Carl Elefante coined the phrase, “The greenest building is one that’s already built.” Making new materials takes much more energy than reusing what’s already there. In that vein, builders, architects and city planners are increasingly retrofitting or modifying existing buildings rather than tearing them down and starting anew. Elefante states retrofitting “to meet high-performance standards is the most effective strategy for reducing near- and mid-term carbon emissions.”

On a smaller scale, interior designers told Forbes Home that they are noticing an increased interest in vintage designs and items. “There is a growing recognition of the importance of reusing and repurposing items to reduce waste and minimize environmental impact,” interior and product designer Claudia Afshar says. “This also allows for the incorporation of vintage designs.”

Of course, retrofitted homes looking stylish is a major plus. Just remember that there is a big difference between reusing a truly vintage item and buying a new, vintage-inspired item, especially from a sustainability standpoint.

## **2. Mixing Materials**

Homeowners have the power to control what materials go into their homes, which can be exciting, if not a little daunting, as there are a lot of materials to choose from. If sustainability is your aim, you must first understand how those materials can impact the environment before you can make the best choice.

When considering materials from a sustainability perspective, you must consider embodied carbon. According to the Rocky Mountain Institute, “Embodied carbon represents the millions of tons of carbon emissions released during the lifecycle of building materials, including extraction, manufacturing, transport, construction and disposal.” In other words, embodied carbon is the total, lifelong carbon footprint of any material you use.

Materials that contribute some of the most embodied carbon emissions include concrete, steel and types of insulation. The goal is to substitute those materials with low-carbon or carbon-neutral ones, like recycled and reclaimed materials or carbon-absorbing ones. Carbon-storing materials tend to be plant-based. Wood, hemp and bamboo are all good examples. Plants absorb carbon during their lifetime. So when it comes time to harvest the plant to be used as a material, the carbon emitted during production is less than the carbon absorbed while the plant grows.

### **Concrete Sans Cement**

As stated earlier, concrete is a material with high embodied carbon. A key ingredient in most concrete is Portland cement, which creates carbon dioxide as a waste product during production. After water, concrete is the most used substance in the world. Eliminating concrete would mean cutting yearly global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 8%.

Luckily, inventive companies are working on an alternative. Take, for example, Canada’s CarbiCrete which has invented a cement-free concrete option. According to the company’s

website, “the process uses an industrial by-product —the slag from steel factories—to replace cement as a binding ingredient in concrete products.” This invention is a game-changer because it eliminates the need for cement and uses what would otherwise be a waste product from another industry.

## **Bamboo**



You could call bamboo a super material. Its versatility means it’s being used across the fashion and transportation industries. It also grows quickly. Unlike trees, many bamboo species are ready to harvest in as little as two to three years. There is even a species that grows a whopping 35 inches per day and can be harvested after just a few months.

In the home improvement sector, bamboo can be used in various areas including flooring, decking and furniture. Companies across the world are starting to use and develop bamboo products. One California start-up, BamCore, uses it to frame houses. At the same time, another company, African Bamboo, has created a bamboo-based building material that is half the weight of concrete but stronger than steel.

### 3. Keep Home Building and Design Natural



Climate change results from our disconnection from nature, so it seems appropriate to find solutions when we connect with it again. One way designers are doing this is through bioclimatic design.

Bioclimatic architecture involves designing a building that works with nature instead of against it. Take, for example, Vietnam's Tropical Space. This innovative studio designs perforated brick buildings that keep the hot sun out while simultaneously letting a cool breeze in, eliminating the need for air conditioning in what is usually a sweltering climate.

Nature-based design is generally categorized in two ways: green infrastructure and blue infrastructure. Green infrastructure utilizes natural features like vegetation and greenspaces, while blue infrastructure is all about incorporating water.

### 4. Bringing Back Past Design and Building Techniques

Another way architects are innovating the home space is by looking back to the past. Before the industrial boom, our ancestors were savvy at finding ways to stay comfortable in their homes without electricity. Two such techniques are being utilized today: straw bales and rammed earth. Straw Bales



Did you know that the pioneers of the late 1800s used straw bales to construct their houses on the Great Plains? And way before them in the Paleolithic period, people built with straw on the African plains. With thousands of years of continuous use to back it up, it is no surprise that we are seeing a resurgence in straw today.

While there are some drawbacks including concerns about pests and water damage, modern straw bale houses come with many advantages including:

- Superior insulation with a high R-value
- Fire resistance
- Earthquake and wind resistance
- Inexpensive
- Noise control
- Uses local agricultural waste

## **5. Location, Location, Location**

Like most things in the home industry, the location of the homes and the materials to build them highly influence sustainability.

A fifth of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions come from transportation, according to the International Energy Agency. Currently, in the U.S. all but a few cities are designed so that driving a car is not a choice but a necessity. From poor public transportation to urban sprawl, most of us are set up for failure in this conservation area.

While cars are quickly becoming more electric and public transportation is rising, builders and city planners are also making strides. One solution is designing better and more multi-family

housing. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), “evidence suggests that increasing the share of multifamily housing and pursuing efforts to densify housing could net significant reductions in emissions.”

Look around and you will start to notice apartment buildings that hold much more than apartments but other shared amenities including co-working spaces, restaurants, entertainment venues, retail stores and so much more. These micro-cities give their residents the convenience of having everything in one place and consequently lessen the need for frequent driving.



The location of a building project and its materials are also important. Off-site construction allows for a more streamlined process that cuts down on time and energy needed. Prefabricated houses, for example, can take mere weeks to complete whereas traditional houses can take several months.

Location is still important even if there is no choice but the build on-site. As we discussed before the materials chosen have a huge impact on a project’s total embodied carbon. For the most eco-friendly results, builders choose sustainable building materials that are not only natural or recycled but physically close to the project site.

Although we can’t all control city planning and architecture, scaling sustainability efforts to the consumer level gives many more people the choice to do better for the environment. While we applaud the initiative of many home improvement companies; it is essential to watch out for greenwashing when shopping for a product.

## **4. What Are the Best Modern Cleaning Tools for a Healthier Home?**

When it comes to cleaning your home, often the tools used for the job are more important than the cleaning agents themselves. A rag, sponge, mop, or vacuum usually has a much greater effect on the ease and outcome of the chore than the spray or cleaning solution.

But with so many cleaning tools on the market—including a lot of gimmicky items—it can be hard to know which ones you actually need. To help you get a head start on your next deep clean, we're sharing the top ten most essential cleaning tools that every household should have.

### **1. Microfiber Cloths**

Microfiber picks up and absorbs dirt and other particles more effectively than cotton rags or sponges. The combination of its tiny fibers—the eponymous 'microfibers'—and static electricity allows microfiber to grab dirt, dust, baked-on food, or soap scum much more powerfully.

Switching to microfiber cleaning cloths will make a big difference in ease of cleaning just about everything in your home, from the bathtub to the refrigerator.

Tips for Thoroughly Cleaning a Refrigerator Both Inside and Out

### **2. Dish Towels**

Dish towels are essential for drying both dinnerware and hands, but they can also be used to polish just-cleaned surfaces like stovetops and kitchen counters. They can also be laid on the countertop to act as a draining station for hand-washed dishes, and for wiping up spills big and small. To keep these surfaces clean and bacteria-free, launder your dish towels more often than you think you need to—at least weekly, but ideally after daily use.

### **3. Assorted Sponges**

Every home should have a classic two-sided scrubbing sponge, which can be used for all sorts of household chores, such as washing dishes and cleaning the oven. But there are a number of other types of sponges that deserve a place in your cleaning caddy, like the Dobie Pad, a non-abrasive scrub sponge that's ideal for deep cleaning scratch-prone surfaces like plastic or stainless steel.

The ultra-popular Scrub Daddy is another good option to have on hand, because it changes texture from soft to abrasive when exposed to different water temperatures, allowing you complete control over messes. Microfiber sponges can be used for everything from quick cleanup jobs to deep cleaning, and chainmail scrubbers make quick work of scrubbing out cast-iron cookware.

### **4. Squeegee**

An essential tool for any home with glass shower doors, a squeegee can also be used for all sorts of cleaning jobs. Use it to wick water off glass shower doors to prevent soap scum and

water spots from creating an ugly film, or use a squeegee to quickly dry off tile walls to keep mold and mildew from forming. And, of course, squeegees can be used to leave windows, windshields, and glass-topped furniture streak-free after they've been washed.

## 5. Telescoping Duster



Dusters come in many forms, but one of the most useful types is the telescoping duster. This long-handled duster allows you to clean hard-to-reach spots, like the tops of cabinets, window casings, or baseboards, without having to climb a ladder or bend down. If you don't already have one, you can create your own telescoping cleaning tool by securing a dry or damp microfiber cloth over the rushes of a broom with a rubber band.

## 6. Scrub Brushes

When it comes to cleaning tight spaces where stubborn buildup can occur, sometimes a scrub brush is a better tool than a cloth or sponge. When you need to clean grout, tile, fixtures, or tough stains, a bit of elbow grease and the proper scrubbing tool can usually do the trick. An old dish brush or toothbrush can be used as a cleaning tool, but you can also buy a scrub brush for just about anything. There are scrubbers for every type of job you can imagine, from small detailing tools to powerful electric scrubbers for tackling expanses of tile flooring.

## 7. Toilet Brush

Technically speaking, a toilet brush is a scrub brush, but it's important enough to be considered a separate tool. A good toilet brush is crucial to cleaning a toilet bowl, where bacteria and human waste can build up, leaving a stained basin.

## **8. Broom and Dustpan**

Amid the popularity of robot vacuums, it can be easy to forget about the humble broom and dustpan. If your home has hardwood or laminate flooring, a top-quality broom is the ideal tool for daily cleaning. (Aim to vacuum high trafficked areas once a week, and less frequently-used spaces once a month.)

Specialty brooms can help you make the most of your cleaning routine. If you have pets, a rubber-bristled broom makes sweeping up pet hair a breeze. If you do a lot of outdoor or garage work, look for a broom designed for heavy duty outdoor jobs.

## **9. Mop**

Mops are essential for cleaning tile or natural stone floors, and they're incredibly useful tools for plenty of other cleaning jobs as well. Used dry or damp, mops can also be used as telescoping tools for swabbing walls, window casings, baseboards, and other hard-to-reach places in the home.

## **10. Vacuum**

A vacuum is another essential tool—but its usefulness extends far beyond cleaning floors. A vacuum is key to keeping upholstered furniture and mattresses free of dust, dander, pollen, and other allergens. And when fitted with the right attachments, a vacuum can allow you to clean everything from the interior of your car to the needles from holiday garland.

# **5. How Do Old-Fashioned Cleaning Tips Actually Work in Modern Homes?**

Keeping your house neat and organised is necessary for a healthy home, and it is much easier to manage today than in the olden days. Nowadays, people have access to efficient & powerful cleaning equipment, ergonomic tools and effective cleaners. You can cut your house cleaning time in half, but using these products/tools is only sometimes economical or eco-friendly. Most commercial cleaners contain dangerous chemicals and volatile organic compounds.

Additionally, many electronic devices can increase your electricity and water bills. Therefore, simplify house cleaning with old-school tricks and tips before you reach for modern options. You can clean sustainably and economically with things already in your house. That's how people cleaned before commercial cleaners and equipment became popular & affordable. If you are ending a tenancy, consider hiring a professional service for bond cleaning in Hobart because the task requires the use of modern cleaning tools & equipment. However, for general house sanitation, look at these 10 old-fashioned cleaning tips that actually work.

## **1. Always Dust with a Damp Cloth**

Dusting with a feather duster or dry cotton cloth is counterproductive because rather than picking the dust particles, this method displaces dust from surfaces, polluting your home's



indoor air and causing the dust to settle on other areas. Therefore, dust with a damp cloth to prevent dust clouds and keep your house clean always. Even though it is an old-school cleaning technique, professionals performing bond cleaning in Hobart still use it.

## **2. Sanitise Your Home with Methylated Spirits**

Also known as denatured alcohol, methylated spirit is a pH-neutral cleaner effective against most stains, spots and grime. People have used them for decades to sanitise household fixtures, surfaces and objects. All you need to do is mix the spirits with water and spray the solution on any dirty surface to clean it effectively and efficiently. After applying the cleaner, wipe with a microfiber cloth to get excellent results.

## **3. Make a Homemade Cleaner with Washing Soda**



Before super-strength washing liquids, many people used washing soda for laundry and house cleaning. It is an economical & eco-friendly product that you can use to make a homemade cleaner. Just add a cup of washing soda in water and a few drops of essential oil. You can use this cleaner for cleaning laminate floors, countertops, slabs, decks, walls, tiles and almost any surface in your home.

## **4. Remove Rust & Hard Water Stains with Oxalic Acid**

If your area's water has mineral deposits & iron oxides, your household surfaces and fixtures can develop rust and hard water stains. To remove them without harsh chemicals: Use oxalic acid crystals as they did in the olden days.

Mix the crystal in water & spray on the stains.

Let the solution dwell for 10 minutes, then scrub the area with a brush before washing thoroughly with water. Since oxalic acid is a natural & effective cleaner, you can also use it during end of lease cleaning Hobart.

## **5. Brighten Glassware with White Vinegar**

Glassware can develop calcium deposits without routine cleaning. Therefore, clear plates, glasses, cups and other items in your cabinets that are occasionally used get cloudy. To make them sparkling and clear: Spray with white vinegar and leave it for 10 minutes.

Wash the glassware with warm water.

If the need arises, wash the glassware with soap and water after cleaning it with vinegar.

## **6. Clean Grouts with Cream of Tartar & Hydrogen Peroxide**

Grouts can gather grime, mould, and dirt over time and look black instead of their natural colour. To brighten and clean them effectively, mix cream of tartar and hydrogen peroxide to make a runny paste. Apply it on the grouts and leave for 10 minutes before scrubbing and washing with water.

## **7. Clean Scratched Glass Panes & Table Tops with Toothpaste**

Windows and glass table tops can get scratches and swirls from use. To remove them and make the surfaces smooth again, coat them with a simple fluoride toothpaste. Let the paste dry before scrubbing with a damp sponge. Lastly, wipe the residues with a damp microfiber cloth to reveal clear surfaces.

## **8. Treat Kitchen Messes with Lemon & Salt**

Boilovers, splatters and spills are common in the kitchen. You can get rid of grease and kitchen stains with a commercial cleaner, but try this old-school trick first. Sprinkle salt on the dirty area and squeeze a bit of lemon juice before scrubbing with the lemon. It should treat even stubborn kitchen messes & leave the surface smelling fresh as well.

## **9. Unclog Drains & Remove Sewer Smell with Bleach**

Drains often develop biofilms and gunk, causing them to clog without routine sanitation. If you don't have the time to unclog drains, use this simple method for removing grime & smells. Pour boiling water into the drain first, then a cup of bleach. Cover the drain for 30 minutes, then wash everything the bleach has loosened with boiling water. This method will clean and sanitise the drains and even keep pests away.

## **10. Refresh Household Surfaces with Lavender Flowers & Baking Soda**

Upholstery, carpets, beds and pillows get smelly due to exposure to dust, dead skin cells, sweat and moisture in the air. You can use store-bought fresheners, but they contain chemicals that aggravate asthma, allergic rhinitis and other respiratory diseases. Therefore, use crushed lavender flowers in baking soda as a refresher for fabric fixtures. Sprinkle the mixture on the fixtures and vacuum it after 20-30 minutes to reveal fresh and clean carpets, upholstery etc.

## Wrapping Up

Cleaning your home routinely is vital to maintain indoor air quality and prevent household members from falling sick repeatedly. Therefore, use the 10 old-fashioned cleaning tips shared above to sanitise your home without harsh chemicals or commercial cleaners.

## 6. How Can Home Automation Help Simplify Your Cleaning Routine?



Home automation can revolutionize your cleaning routine by streamlining tasks and making home maintenance more efficient. Smart devices like robotic vacuums can automatically clean floors on a set schedule, while smart washers and dryers can notify you when laundry is done, ensuring you never forget a load. Voice-controlled systems can activate appliances like dishwashers or air purifiers with a simple command. Automated air filters help maintain cleaner air without manual intervention.

These technologies reduce the time and effort needed for daily chores, allowing you to focus on more important things. With home automation, you can easily manage your cleaning tasks remotely or with minimal effort, ensuring a consistently clean and well-maintained home.

Here's how home automation can simplify your cleaning routine:

- **Automated vacuuming:** Robotic vacuums clean floors on a set schedule, keeping your home tidy without daily effort.

- **Smart laundry:** Washers and dryers notify you when cycles are done, so you never forget laundry.
- **Voice control:** Activate cleaning appliances like dishwashers or air purifiers with voice commands.
- **Scheduled cleaning tasks:** Set times for tasks like vacuuming, air filtering, or mopping for consistent cleaning.
- **Remote management:** Use your smartphone to control cleaning devices while away from home.
- **Air purification:** Smart air filters maintain air quality automatically, reducing allergens and dust.

These features streamline home maintenance and save time, making cleaning easier and more efficient.

## Bottom Line

Incorporating modern techniques into your home improvement projects not only enhances the aesthetics and functionality of your space but also increases its value and sustainability, ensuring a comfortable and stylish living environment for years to come.

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