## GUIDE TO MAKE

# YOUR HOUSE FEEL NEW AGAIN



BY LOREN - THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

### **Abstract**

Creating a beautiful home in Hobart that feels fresh and new involves thoughtful design, regular maintenance, and a few strategic updates. Start by decluttering and organizing spaces to achieve a clean, open feel. Fresh coats of paint in light, neutral colors can brighten rooms, while new accents like cushions, rugs, or art add warmth and personality. Incorporate greenery with indoor plants for a touch of nature and improved air quality. Regular deep cleaning, especially focusing on high-use areas, keeps everything looking pristine. These small enhancements make a big difference, transforming your Hobart home into a vibrant, welcoming space.

## 1. Introduction

Giving your Hobart home a refreshing makeover can make it feel brand new without the need for major renovations. Whether you're looking to boost comfort, enhance style, or simply achieve a cleaner, more organized space, there are many simple updates that can transform your home. From adding fresh coats of paint and updating decor to introducing more natural light and greenery, a few thoughtful changes can go a long way. This guide will explore easy and affordable ways to revitalize your home, helping you create a vibrant, inviting atmosphere that feels both stylish and comfortable year-round in Hobart.

# 2. Quick Fixes That Will Make a Noticeable Difference In Your Home

If your space is feeling drab or dated, tackling a giant design overhaul can feel impossible—especially if time, budget, or both are a problem. Luckily, we have good news. According to some of our favorite designers, there are tons of easy, quick fixes that can make a major impact on your space.

It only takes a small fix here or a quick project there to revitalize your home. When it comes to quick-but-noticeable fixes, here's what the experts have to say

#### Use the Same Light Bulbs Everywhere

Lighting plans are integral for your home. But, successful lighting design isn't just about fixture placement, it's also about types of bulbs, according to expert Peter Spalding of Daniel House Club. He encourages us to make sure all our light bulbs are the same temperature light—eliminating bulbs that are too cool will instantly add cohesion and warmth to a space.

Expert Dan Mazzarini of ARCHIVE by Dan Mazzarini agrees, noting that new bulbs plus dimmers are a combo to change the feel of your home.

"Swap out your bulbs and install dimmers for a quick, easy fix," he says. "LED fixtures and Edison bulbs can cast a warm glow that instantly softens a space. You can then have an electrician swap out your switches or use sliding dimmers for plug-ins."

#### **Buy New Items in Pairs**

Adding new elements to a space can definitely help make a noticeable difference—but you should be buying things mindfully. According to Spalding, this can be done well with symmetry in mind.



"Assess the symmetries and balances of your rooms and work to reinforce them," Spalding says. "Try to create symmetry and balance where you find none. For me, this means buying things in pairs whenever possible—like lamps, chairs, side tables, and mirrors."

#### **Include a Conversation Piece**

One great way to inject some excitement into a space is to add something vintage or one-of-a-kind.

"An inspiring and different piece—one that's not from a big box store—can bring more personality to a room," Mazzarini says. "Pick one thing for a room that is not new. This could be a vintage lamp, vintage textile pillows, or art."

#### Just Add Art

Whether you're creating a full gallery wall or just hanging one or two pieces, Spalding says that well-placed art is an instant game changer in a space. The key is to hang art in relation to its surroundings.

"Art needs to feel engaged with something nearby—hang it so it will be read as a vignette with other furnishings in your room," Spalding says. He suggests hanging art at least six inches above the back of a sofa for the perfect placement.

Mazzarini feels the same, noting that art doesn't have to mean a major expense in something original. "Pre-framed art is an easy, low-budget addition with a big impact," he says. "We're loving affordable options lately and are always eyeing abstract pieces."

#### **Swap Out Your Bedding**

If you're looking for an easy way to fix up your bedroom, Mazzarini tells us it's all in the textiles. All-white bedding gives off a hotel-like experience, and by layering your blanket or tripling the duvet at the foot of the bed, you can instantly elevate your bedroom.

#### **Change Up Your Staircas**

If you're thinking of zones that need a refresh, your staircase might be overlooked. And according to Ami McKay of PURE Design, this is a mistake.

"A beautiful way to update your home is to focus on a staircase," she tells us. "You can add tiles to the risers, or we also love to find vintage Turkish rugs and use them as runners. It adds color and dimension."

#### **Coordinate Your Hardware**

Replacing drawer pulls is a popular tip for kitchens and bathrooms, but McKay says it's all in the details when it comes to creating one, cohesive design. The key is to make sure everything matches with the same finish.

"You can even order new push buttons for your toilet to match the hardware," she says. "This change will modernize the space."

#### **Add Pops of Color in Unexpected Places**

A coat of paint sounds like an obvious way to change the atmosphere of a room—but McKay says you can make an even bigger difference depending on where you paint.

"You can change the feel of a room in a big way by painting the ceiling or wallpapering it with a captivating design," she says. "Trust me, this will have an amazing effect on the whole main floor."

Spalding had similar advice, noting that this can be an easy DIY project that doesn't require tackling a whole wall.

"I often paint interior window sashes and doors a bold color and leave the walls much quieter," he says. "This is a really crisp, focused way to bring in a punch of color and can leave your room feeling totally new and different."

#### **Rotate Your Existing Decor**

If you're feeling stuck in a space, McKay says you can fix things up without buying anything at all—simply use what you already have.

"We all forget to move things around in our living spaces periodically," she says. "It can be as small as changing up the vignette on your coffee table or rotating items and trying different groupings. It creates a whole new feel."

#### **Back-Paint Your Glass Cabinets**

Painting your kitchen cabinets is great advice, but if your home has glass-front cabinetry, it might sound like this isn't an option—though Spalding assures us to think again.

"If you have glass cabinet doors that you don't want to see through anymore—maybe you buy loud cereal boxes like I do—paint the inside of the glass an opaque color," he says. "You'll still have the higloss of the glass showing out so it will look very professional. Everyone will ask who did it for you."

#### **Consider Your Carpets**

One of the quickest ways to change a room is by swapping out your floor coverings, says designer Kate Marker.

"Color, texture, and rug patterns can all be refreshed to make a space cozier, more cohesive, more luxe, or more casual," Marker says. "Rugs can be found in a very wide price range, so there are many appealing options depending on style and budget."

This also doesn't just apply to larger areas—rugs can be a huge help everywhere. "Don't overlook smaller spaces to introduce a rug," she adds. "There are now so many durable, indoor/outdoor, and even pet-friendly options so hallways, foyers, and bathrooms can all be elevated with a new (or vintage) rug."

#### Add Fresh Florals and Greenery

Consider this bit of advice timeless and classic: when all else fails, just add greens.

"One thing that doesn't cost much and changes the energy in a room quickly is to add greenery," McKay says. "I often just go outside with my clippers and cut huge branches and style them in a big heavy vase or vintage pot."

Mazzarini agrees, noting regular arrangements will make a major change. "Max out florals," he says. "Pick out your favorite vase and refresh your space with new arrangements week to week for a bright, colorful expression in the home."

# 3. Improve Your Home in Just a Few Days with These Weekend Projects



Spruce up every room in your home with our collection of quick and easy do-it-yourself home improvement projects. Each one can be completed in just a weekend and increases the function—and style!—of your home.

#### **Make Your Entrance Inviting**

A cheery front-door color and a touch of landscaping can do wonders for your home's curb appeal and make a lasting impression on guests. Dress the door with new hardware, and add potted plants near

the entrance. Consider installing outdoor lighting to enhance your home's architecture and illuminate the walkway. Replace your worn-out welcome mat with a bold statement mat to create a warm and welcoming ambiance for your home.

#### **Replace Your Kitchen Island**

For an impactful weekend update, swap out the surface of your kitchen island. With all the appealing looks of luxurious stone without the tedious upkeep, the 180fx by Formica Group's Calacatta Cava finish pairs well with contemporary, traditional, and farmhouse styles alike.

#### **Brighten Your Kitchen**

Dress up an eating area with a fresh light fixture. Replacing an existing fixture is your easiest option: Just turn off the power at the breaker box and connect the wires. Hanging a new light fixture is a simple way to change the look of your room, and it's a project you can do yourself. Consider the design, as well as function, when choosing the right light fixtures for your kitchen.

#### Add a Window Box

One of the first living walls, window boxes have been a longtime favorite of gardeners. Filled with a lush display of flowers, they add charm to any exterior window. Not only do they give windows a nice finish, but they also bring gorgeous flowers up and into view from inside the home. Plus, you can build the popular curb appeal element yourself.

#### Install a New Faucet

Inject elegance into your daily life with a faucet that ups the ante in looks and quality. Just make sure the configuration matches your existing sink, or you might end up replacing that, too. If you're planning on buying a new sink, it's easiest to install a faucet and other hardware on a new sink before the sink is put in place. Buying a new sink allows you to customize the number of holes to fit your preferred faucet.

#### **Add Storage to Your Entry**

If a traditional entry closet or a built-in shelving system isn't an option in your home, refashioned furniture can achieve a look that's equally stylish and storage-savvy. This small-scale table is a perfect size for beside the front door. Though compact, the table's lower shelf makes the piece super functional for drop-zone items. Hang a wall-mount shelf above the table to keep keys, hats, and sunglasses within easy reach.

#### Paint or Paper a Wall

Select the perfect self-adhesive wallpaper to create an accent that's easy to apply, remove, and reuse. Like a giant sticker, peel the decorative paper off the backing and adhere it to a primed and painted wall. To create a curvy top edge, use your mirror to inspire the outline of your design. Cut the shape from kraft paper and test the look. Tape the pattern on the decorative paper applied to the wall; use a crafts knife to cut around the template and peel away the paper above the cut.

#### **Hang Outdoor String Lights**

Set the perfect outdoor ambiance with string lights. These weather-resistant lights are perfect to light up your patio or deck for outdoor dining and relaxing. Attach the lights with screw eyes and carabiners so they're just as easy to put up as they are to take down. With this easy method, string lights remain

sturdy throughout the year, so you don't have to worry about plastic hooks and other temporary solutions that won't last after the season.

#### **Add Beaded Board**

Beaded board lends a traditional touch to kitchens and bathrooms. Cut holes in the boards or sheets for outlets, phone jacks, and other wall necessities. Be sure to finish it with a waterproof sealant if you are installing it behind or around a sink. For a modern take on beaded board, try wider plank paneling.

#### **Switch to Energy-Saving Windows**

If you have a window that faces frigid winter winds, replace it with a high-efficiency unit. If your home has single-pane windows, they could be wasting up to 25% of your energy costs. Improve your home's energy efficiency by replacing single-pane windows with high-performance double-pane Energy Starrated windows. Look for windows labeled low-emissivity (low-E) or spectrally selective—they have a coating that reduces thermal heat transfer.

## 4. How To Make Your House Feel New Again



Shopping is the easy part for some — the thrill of the chase, the flutter of excitement at bringing a new treasure home, choosing a new paint color or materials for a remodel. But what happens to those glorious finds and finishes months or years later? Before you give in to the urge to shop for new stuff, consider some home maintenance to show off what you have in the best possible light. You may find that after giving what you already have a little extra TLC, your craving for new stuff fades. You never know; you may even find yourself falling for your home and decor all over again.

1. Maintain upholstery. Regular maintenance can go a long way toward keeping upholstery looking as good as new for as long as possible. Vacuum the fabric and rotate cushions each time you clean the living room, and clean spills and mend small tears right away.

Even if a stain has been there for a long time, it can still often be removed with stain remover or hydrogen peroxide; treat it repeatedly until it fades. Just be sure to test new cleaning products on a less-visible area of fabric first.

- 2. Remove scuff marks and touch up paint. Small things like scuff marks from shoes and bags, tiny dings and chipped corners can make a space feel worn out. Spend a day scrubbing, patching and touching up paint, and you'll notice a world of difference.
- 3. Make furniture gleam. If you can't remember the last time you polished your wood furniture, doing so will probably make you wonder why you don't do it all the time the difference is amazing.

The type of finish on your furniture will determine what you use to polish it. Midcentury teak pieces are often finished with oil alone, so simply rubbing in a bit more teak oil from time to time will suffice. Finished wood pieces may respond well to a furniture paste or wax — read the directions thoroughly before trying any new product.

- 4. Remove stains from marble. This porous surface is prone to staining, so it's important to wipe up spills immediately. Of course, there are times that just doesn't happen. No matter how or when it happened, there still may be hope for restoring the beauty of your marble. Check the chart available from the Marble Institute of America for methods of removing all sorts of stains. If you still can't get it out, call a pro improving the counters you have is still cheaper than getting new ones.
- 5. Care for wood counters. Remove scratches and stains on your wood countertops by gently sanding the area; then rub in a food-grade mineral oil with a soft rag. To prevent future damage, always use trivets under hot items, wipe up spills quickly and cut items on cutting boards, not on the counter.
- 6. Refresh old wood floors. Even if you don't want to have your wood floors refinished, there are still ways to make them look their best. What you use to refresh your floors will depend on the type of finish your wood floors have.

Floors with a natural oil-rubbed finish can be shined up with wood oil. Really old, worn floors may do well with a wax. Floors finished with polyurethane can be cleaned with a solution of white vinegar and water. Just avoid getting the floors really wet by applying the solution with a barely damp mop and wiping dry with a towel immediately after. Excess water on wood floors of any type can potentially cause damage.

7. Refluff area rugs. Fluffy rugs like flokatis and sheepskins look amazing when you first bring them home, but ... less amazing after several months of wear and tear. Most small natural flokati and sheepskin rugs can be hand washed (or even machine washed on delicate) in mild soap and then air dried.

Between washings, simply shake out and then brush your rug with a dog brush. Just be sure to read the cleaning instructions before deciding on a method.

8. Deep clean wall-to-wall carpeting. Regular vacuuming and spot cleaning will get you only so far. Every once in a while, it pays to rent, borrow or buy a steam cleaner to give your carpeting a deep clean. To help the floor dry as quickly and completely as possible, wait for a dry day and set up a dehumidifier in the room afterward.

9. Condition leather. Leather furniture can actually look better with age, provided that it is properly cared for. Use a leather conditioner a few times each year to keep the leather from drying out and cracking.

Keep it looking fresh by vacuuming and then buffing with a dry microfiber cloth as needed. Wipe up spills as soon as they happen, using a dry cloth to soak up any liquid.

10. Brighten whites. Slipcovers, pillow covers, curtains, towels and more can all use a good refreshing from time to time. If you don't want to use chlorine bleach on your whites, try an oxygen- or hydrogen peroxide—based nonchlorine bleach instead.

# 5. Finishing Touches That Will Make Your Home Feel More Luxurious



When it comes to making your home feel luxurious, you don't need a designer sofa or one-of-a-kind vintage dining chairs to create the effect. While it's nice to have those things, it's really the little things that make a big difference in how your home feels. From the dining room to the kitchen and bedroom—here are eight small finishing touches to make your home feel more luxurious.

#### **Linen Napkins**

Most of us don't have time to create an entire tablescape for a family dinner. But we can swap out those disposable napkins for linen ones. They instantly make everything look nicer—and they're more eco-friendly.

Napkins are also a quick and easy way to mix things up as the seasons change. Choose holiday-themed ones in the winter and bright colors or prints for the summer. Just be sure to fold them as soon as they're done in the dryer so they don't wrinkle.

#### **Monogrammed Towels**

There's nothing more timeless than a monogrammed towel. They're a chic, custom touch that looks good in every bathroom. You can get creative with the monograms, too. Choose fun colors or playful fonts to match different bathroom designs. Weezie has the fluffiest towels with eleven different monogram and piping options. These also make great housewarming gifts.

#### A Sleek Soap Pump In The Kitchen

While dish soap packaging design has certainly improved in recent years, a refillable pump just looks nicer. No logos, no distracting or clunky graphic design, just chic style that matches your kitchen aesthetic. L'Avant Collective has an entire line of beautifully designed logoless pumps. You also can't go wrong with a classic white ceramic pump. Having a refillable pump also allows you to buy dish soap in bulk, which saves money and cuts back on plastic waste.

#### **Fancy Paper Towel Holders**

Another smart finishing touch for the kitchen is a fancy paper towel holder. Forget a roll just lying around willy-nilly or one that sticks to the fridge. An attractive holder adds a little bit of wow factor next to the kitchen sink or on your countertop. Michael Aram makes the most beautiful ones and while a splurge, it's something you'll use every day.

#### **Tissue Box Covers**

Turn a cold into a decorating opportunity. A covered tissue box turns a forgotten household item into a chic objet d'art. There are so many different types of tissue box covers to fit your style, too. From fabric covers to plastic and ceramic—these always look good on a nightstand (especially in a guest room) on top of a short stack of books.

#### A Water Caraffe On A Nightsand

Want your bedroom to feel like a luxury five-star hotel? Skip the water bottle and go with a carafe. Not only does this look nice, but it also helps encourage you to stay hydrated. Best of all, you won't need to get out of bed for a glass of water at 2:00 a.m.

#### A Soft Throw Draped Over The Edge Of A Bed

Looking to up your bedroom game even further? Style a soft throw on the edge of your bed. It could be a classic cashmere with some fringe or a chunky cotton knit. This is also an easy way to incorporate seasonal accents into your home in a non-kitschy way. For example, go with a deep pumpkin color in the fall and a hunter green for the winter.

#### **Trays Everywhere**

Never underestimate the power of a tray. They instantly make any room look more put together and stylish. Use a tray to hold remotes in the living room. Keep one on the side of your sink to house your hand and dish soaps. Style a tray with books on a nightstand. They're also great in the bathroom to keep products looking tidy when displayed on the sink.

# 6. How To Clean A House Professionally Checklist



Your mental and physical well-being is at stake in a dirty and messy home. Dust and dirt on household surfaces attract bacteria and other pathogens. These contaminants and germs pollute the indoor air and come in contact with household members through touch, making them repeatedly fall sick. Therefore, routine house cleaning is necessary to keep your family healthy and prevent your home's surfaces/fixtures from looking unappealing. Renters ending a tenancy need to deep clean the property reasonably to get their bonds back in full. You can hire professionals for end of lease cleaning in Hobart or thorough house cleaning if your property is heavily soiled. However, if you plan to do it yourself, outlining and streamlining your tasks is necessary to clean your home up to professional standards. Thus, here is a professional house cleaning checklist you can refer to anytime. Have a look.

#### **Kitchen Cleaning Tasks**

Since the kitchen is the germiest area in your home, start your professional house clean here and complete the following tasks.

- Wipe and disinfect the Appliance surfaces
- Clean the oven, microwave and dishwasher from the inside and outside.
- Empty cabinets and clean them thoroughly
- Clean the range hood and exhaust fan
- Clean and disinfect the countertops, slabs, breakfast bar, and other flat surfaces.
- Remove spots, boilover stains and splatters from the walls, cabinets and other areas.
- Wash the sink and sanitise the drains.

Empty the trash cans and wash them if they are dirty.

#### **Bathroom Cleaning Tasks**

After the kitchen, move to sanitise the bathroom, as it will be the next dirtiest room in your home. To clean it professionally like an experienced bond cleaner in Hobart, keep a multipurpose bathroom cleaner on hand and use different types of brushes, sponges and microfiber cleaning towels.

- Descale and deep clean the toilet, bathtub and washbasin.
- Remove soap scum, mineral stains and other stains from the shower screen, tiles and surfaces.
- Descale the shower head, faucets, drain rings, and other areas with mineral deposits.
- Empty the medicine and vanity cabinets to clean them thoroughly.
- Remove mould and mildew from the ceilings, tiles and walls.
- Clean the floor grouts and wash the floors
- Squeegee, then mop the floor.
- Clean the exhaust fan.

#### **General Cleaning Tasks to Perform in All Rooms**

Once you have tackled the dirtiest rooms in the house, the rest of the areas are easier to sanitise and less time-consuming. You can spruce your entire house quickly by performing these tasks in all rooms.

- Take out the trash
- Remove cobwebs from ceilings, walls and other areas.
- Dust and vacuum the lights, fans and other fixtures
- Dust all surfaces and objects
- Wipe and vacuum the windows, blinds and doors. If the openings are extremely dirty, wash them thoroughly, including their tracks and frames.
- Spot clean walls and wipe the baseboards. You can also wipe the walls with a microfiber mop if there is dust and dirt accumulation.
- Sanitise all common touchpoints like switches, handles, knobs, rails, etc.
- Clean mirrors and glass surfaces
- Vacuum or sweep the floors
- Vacuum the carpets thoroughly. Hire a professional for carpet cleaning at the end of a tenancy
  to claim your rental bond without dispute. You can book the service with the same cleaners
  performing bond cleaning in Hobart.
- Mop all floors.

#### When to seek Professional Help?

Following a professional house cleaning checklist will allow you to sanitise and disinfect your home like an experienced cleaner. However, sometimes, you cannot get the same results or lack the expertise to tackle the issue. During such circumstances, you must seek professional help to ease your burden, reduce stress and ensure the issue is handled correctly. You must book professional cleaners for the following things.

- Bond cleaning in Hobart
- Pest control or fumigation
- Mould remediation
- Carpet shampooing, hot water extraction (steam cleaning) or dry cleaning.
- Wall washing

- Blinds cleaning
- Upholstery cleaning
- Pool maintenance



Most house cleaners in Hobart cost an average price of \$123.23, and professional cleaners can charge you an average of \$400 for a 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms. Contact local cleaning companies to get quotes to get the best and most affordable cleaning service for your home. Get quotes from multiple cleaners to compare them and negotiate the prices. Most bond cleaners in Hobart give their services at competitive rates, making it easier for you to broker a deal. Also, while booking, ask about every company's cancellation, rescheduling and booking.

House cleaning often takes a backseat when you have work and personal commitments. When you don't clean for days, dust, dirt, and grime can gather on the household surfaces and fixtures. The contaminants attract germs and make your household members. Therefore, use this professional house cleaning checklist to sanitise your home up to professional standards. This checklist is handy whether you are performing deep house or bond cleaning.

## 7. Conclusion

Revitalizing your Hobart home to make it feel new again is achievable with a few creative and practical changes. By focusing on decluttering, refreshing key areas with paint, updating decor, and adding touches of nature, you can transform your space without extensive renovations. Small adjustments, like improving lighting and deep cleaning, also make a noticeable difference in the ambiance and comfort of your home. With these easy updates, your home will feel rejuvenated, welcoming, and aligned with your personal style. Embrace these tips to enjoy a fresh, vibrant home environment that feels both modern and inviting year-round in Hobart.

## 8. References

By Ashley Chalmers (09/12/24) | Quick Fixes That Will Make a Noticeable Difference In Your Home | thespruce. Retrieved 14 Nov 2024, from

https://www.thespruce.com/quick-fixes-for-your-home-7376264

By Sheryl Geerts (February 14, 2023) | Improve Your Home in Just a Few Days with These Weekend Projects | bhg. Retrieved 14 Nov 2024, from

https://www.bhg.com/home-improvement/remodeling/budget-remodels/weekend-home-projects/

By Laura Gaskill (Apr 11, 2017) | How To Make Your House Feel New Again | forbes. Retrieved 14 Nov 2024, from

https://www.forbes.com/sites/houzz/2017/04/11/how-to-make-your-house-feel-new-again/

By Amanda Lauren (September 25, 2023) | Finishing Touches That Will Make Your Home Feel More Luxurious | realsimple. Retrieved 14 Nov 2024, from

https://www.realsimple.com/luxurious-home-finishing-touches-7973871

By Charlotte (March 23, 2023) | How To Clean A House Professionally Checklist | bondcleaninginhobart. Retrieved 14 Nov 2024, from

https://www.bondcleaninginhobart.com.au/how-to-clean-a-house-professionally-checklist/