

THE ESSENCE OF A WARM AND INVITING HOME



ABSTRACT

A warm and inviting home is more than just a physical space; it is a sanctuary that reflects the essence of comfort, connection, and harmony. This article explores the elements that contribute to creating such an environment, emphasizing design choices, personal touches, and emotional resonance. By understanding these principles, individuals can transform their living spaces into havens of warmth and hospitality.

INTRODUCTION

A home is often regarded as a mirror of one's soul, embodying personality and values. While its primary function is shelter, a truly inviting home transcends this basic role by fostering feelings of comfort and belonging. The essence of such a home lies not only in its decor but also in the atmosphere it exudes—welcoming, serene, and personalized. This article delves into the fundamental components that make a home feel warm and inviting, offering insights to help you enhance your living space.

I. Easy Ways to Cozy Up Your Home

These mini moves will turn your home into a warm and inviting winter retreat.

When it's hot outside, you want your home to be minimalist and breezy, with no extra layers to capture the humidity or hold in heat. But once it gets chilly, you want those layers back, along with space heaters, to make the house feel warm and cozy.



Fortunately, it doesn't take much to make your space inviting and comfortable for winter. Mini moves can be as simple as stashing slippers by the front door or turning on the electric fireplace. Switching to soft lighting, such as the glow from a candle placed here and there, can turn your home into a winter-ready retreat. Here are eight tiny ways to cozy up your home.

Update Your Bedding

Crisp cotton and linen are great for summer, but flannel is where it's at for winter! Trade your crisp sateen sheets for ones that will hold the warmth in, like flannel or jersey. While you're at it, fold a quilt or blanket over the foot of your bed to have handy for the coldest nights.

Swap in Snuggly Throw Pillows

Finally, an excuse to splurge on a big furry pillow! Add one or two textured throw pillows to your couch (or change the covers on your existing pillows) to make your space look and feel cozier. Other options: nubby boucle, a wooly cable knit, or a rich velvet. Don't forget the faux fur blanket, too!

Add Warmth Underfoot

Sisal and flat-weave rugs are great when it's warm outside, but you want a little pile for winter. If you don't have the budget for a giant area rug, consider layering smaller rugs in strategic spots, like next to the bed or a futon or under the coffee table. Place them in front of a reading chair or upholstered flip top bench—one of our favorite storage furniture pieces.

Consider Soft Lighting

When the nights get darker earlier, your bed may be tempting you before it's time to repose. Good lighting can help you resist that impulse and stay on your usual sleep schedule. Fit table or desk lamps with warm-toned LED lights for a cozy candle-lit glow that isn't too harsh but will still keep you awake.

Warm Up Your Window Treatments

If you have sheer linen curtains, consider trading them out for velvet drapes or any heavy curtain with a thermal lining. Besides making a space look warm and cozy, they'll insulate the room from cold air leaking through old windows.

Rethink Your Sofa Cover

If you have a slip-covered couch—or even if you don't, but your sofa's a standard size—try a new slipcover for the colder months. Choose a deep jewel tone and a softer fabric than your standard crisp white cotton to give the living room a cozier feel.

Layer Your Kitchen Linens

Start from the bottom up: a little kitchen rug on the floor in front of the sink, a runner or tablecloth on the breakfast table, and linen slipcovers over your wooden or metal cafe chairs. Anytime you can put a layer of fabric between yourself and bare wood or tile, it'll feel a bit warmer.

Put Your Memories on Display

They won't technically warm up your space, but a mantel full of holiday cards or a wall full of personal photos will keep your heart full of warm memories as you get through the next few gray months.



Light Up Your Fireplace

Nothing is cozier than a roaring fire on a cold, wintry day. If you're lucky enough to have a fireplace in your home, light it up to warm up your space. If you don't have a fireplace but want one, there are tons of options for standalone electric fireplaces at various price points.

Dine by Candlelight

Second to a roaring fireplace in coziness is the glow of candles. Make a romantic dinner, or a fun switch up for the kids, and dine by candlelight. Or just light a bunch of candles in the living room and cozy up with a movie. Whichever way you choose to use them, candles warm up any cold night.

Add a Reading Nook

Few things are better when the weather is cold than snuggling in with a good book. So why not create a space designed just for that? Pick a cozy chair, grab some blankets, bring in a lamp (or position your nook next to a window), and get ready to while away the day in your cozy corner.

Change Out Your Bathmat

Bathrooms might not be top of mind when it comes to cozying up your space, but there are small changes you can make to every room. End your showers or baths on a high note with a big, fluffy bathmat. It's a small change that can make a huge difference in warming up your bathroom space.

II. Investing In Quality Furniture That Will Last You A Lifetime

Le Corbusier, Pierre Jeanneret and Charlotte Perriand's LC4 chaise longue. Charles and Ray Eames' LCW chair. Eero Saarinen's Tulip chair. Marc Newson's Lockheed Lounge. These are just some of the 20th-century design icons that have shown incredible staying power, looking just as contemporary now as they did when they were first designed. Homeowners these days are purchasing investment pieces for their interiors that will look just as good in 50 years' time as they do today and even three centuries ago, buying everything from 18th-century French classics to mid-century modern masterpieces and future icons.



Mikael Kraemer, fifth generation of the family-run Paris-based Kraemer Gallery specialising in 18th-century French antiques, says, “Buying the best antiques is like buying the best art, real estate or diamonds: with time, everything increases in value corresponding to their beauty, quality and rarity. Pieces that do well are the three styles of Kings Louis XIV, XV and XVI by the top cabinetmakers like André-Charles Boulle, Charles Cressent, Bernard II van Risamburgh, Martin Carlin or Jean-Henri Riesener. I recommend to collectors to invest because the very best 18th-century antiques are very reasonably priced compared with the actual prices of



paintings.”

Cappellini’s Art Director, Giulio Cappellini, explains the current boom in design, “Today, the public doesn’t see pieces of design only as museum pieces, but rather products to live with every day. Buying a nice piece of design is like buying a painting or a sculpture: it’s something to pass down.



Paris-based Galerie Yves Gastou, which specializes in “sculptor furniture” (when the object goes beyond its usual function to become a practical sculpture), cites Ado Chale’s amethyst low tables, Jean-Claude Farhi & César’s pair of decorative columns and Philippe Hiquily’s dining table – all made in 1970 and sold for over

€100,000 – as having brought the biggest returns for their buyers. Gallerist Victor Gastou divulges, “The pieces that have the greatest investment potential are by contemporary designers or designers who don’t have the recognition they deserve. We can name: Andy Martin, Gerard Kuijpers, Alain Jacquet or Victor Roman. Investors can expect a return after at least 10 years, from double to 10 times.”



Investment Tips

1. Trust your instincts and buy a piece you love as you will be living with it. Having an emotional connection with the work is essential.
2. Consider the quality, rarity, provenance, innovativeness and story behind the piece and that it’s an original – not an imitation – and in good condition, as well as the designer’s history and whether he/she is a creator of a new style.
3. “Buy a set, for example four chairs, a composition of tables or a group of pieces that the designer imagined for the same home setting; it would be extraordinary if they were the same production number, too,” states Armento.

4. Le Gaillard says, “Try not to be guided by fashions or fads; think about it as a future heirloom. How will the next generation feel about it? Will it look good in a future home?”
5. Seek professional advice about the designer from someone you trust – whether it’s a gallery, dealer or an auction house – and be prepared to sit on your investment to achieve good returns.



Top Five Investment Pieces

1. \$5,105,173: A one-off patinated bronze, gypsum and oak cabinet (1935) by Jean-Michel Frank, which set an auction record for the French designer.
2. \$3,824,000: An iconic dining table (1949) reflecting the essence of Carlo Mollino’s aesthetic and one of the rare pieces from the architect, as he almost only worked on private commissions with a small total production.
3. \$3,548,960: A two-tiered sculptural rectangular bar (1965) in nickel silver and brass supported by four blowtorch-cut steel feet, François-Xavier Lalanne’s

first commission from Yves Saint Laurent, which achieved a world record for the artist at auction.

4. \$2,747,991: A unique pair of exceptionally large Art Deco molded and pressed glass Moineaux parlor doors (1929) by René Lalique, which set a world record for the designer who received commissions not just from France but the rest of Europe.
5. \$2,256,000: Patinated bronze Sacred Hamadryas Baboon (circa 1909-1910), among Rembrandt Bugatti's most celebrated and modern sculptures, which was one of the last major pieces he created. There are only 11 recorded bronze casts of this figure.

III. 15 Soothing Decor Ideas to Help You Relax and Unwind at Home

Use these designer tips to create a personal retreat you'll enjoy every day.

Your home is your refuge, where you can feel safe and relaxed when life gets overwhelming. Soothing decor ideas help foster that sense of peace and significantly impact how you feel in a space. A well-designed environment filled with items you love can be calming and relieve stress, while cluttered rooms can have the opposite effect on your mood and mental health. We asked some of our favorite interior designers for tips on transforming your home into a personal sanctuary. These decorating ideas will help you create a stress-free oasis you'll enjoy every day.

Start with a Neutral Palette

Muted, neutral tones are easier on the eye than bright colors. "While I'm definitely one for decorating with color because it can be fun and exciting, I do believe that neutral spaces promote the calmest, sanctuary-like vibes," says Karin Bohn, founder and creative director of the House of Bohn.

Use plenty of texture to create interest when decorating with white or light-toned neutrals (such as cream, off-white, or taupe). Flat white walls and smooth white furnishings are soothing decor ideas, but they can readily blend into boredom, so layer in various fabrics and subtle patterns. Add shades of warmth, such as gold, pale tan, or faded yellow, to keep white from looking too sterile.

Create a Cluster of Color

For a punch of happiness and positivity, add in a few brightly colored accessories, such as pillows or throws, suggests Meghan Hackett-Cassidy and Erin Hackett of Hackett Interiors. Pottery in a favorite color, vibrant artwork, a jewel-tone vase, and other items of intense color can help attract the eye and focus the mind.

Maximize the comforting effect of favorite accessories by clustering them together to create a focal point. That way, every time you pass by, you can take in the collective joy of the items. Be sure to choose a place you notice daily, such as a fireplace mantel or entryway console table.

Maximize the Appeal of a Fireplace

A fireplace doesn't have to be lit to create a comforting atmosphere. Pay attention to the entire hearth to maximize its relaxing appeal. Add soothing decor ideas to the walls around and the floor in front of a fireplace to create a cozy vignette.

When not in use, brighten up the firebox with a decorative screen, a cluster of birch branches, or an arrangement of pillar candles. Otherwise, the dark, empty spot can detract from the room's calming effect.

Warm with Candles

The soft glow of candles is a soothing decor idea for any space, so use them generously throughout your house. "In the morning, I like to light candles in the kitchen and living room and let them burn until evening," says co-founder, principal designer, and chief creative officer of Metal + Petal, Jade Joyner. "It creates a soothing ambience while adding a little luxe to my day."

Keep a substantial supply of candles (tapers, pillars, or votives) and several favorite candleholders to have plenty on hand when you want them. Just be sure to blow them out when you're not at home or go to bed.

Work with Light

Utilize a variety of lighting types (including natural, ambient, and task lighting) in every room. "Having a bright, lighted room is an easy way to make a space feel more inviting and put together," says co-founder and principal designer of BANDD DESIGN, Sara Barney. "Consider adding in some sconces, a floor lamp, desk lamp, or pendants to bring more light to those darker spaces in your home."

During the daytime, take advantage of natural light by throwing back the blinds and enjoying the sunlight that floods in. Then, create a lighting scheme for the evening hours that's just as appealing as nature's rays with bulbs that cast a gentle, warm light.

Scent the Air

A pleasant aroma is one of the quickest soothing decor ideas to create an environment of relaxation and a sense of well-being. Interior designer Darla Bankston May suggests burning your favorite scented candles and placing fresh, fragrant flowers in the rooms you use the most.

Alternatively, try running an essential oil diffuser to fill the room with your own signature scent blend. "Eucalyptus, geranium, and chamomile are some of my favorites, and they bring a soothing, spa-like quality to any room," says founder and creative director of Black Lacquer Design, Caitlin Murray.

Display Family Photos

Hang framed photos for a soothing decor idea to take your mind to the pleasant places you've been, such as trips to the beach or a beautiful family wedding. "Surrounding yourself with happy memories and the faces you love can be a great way to add a little warmth to your space," says interior designer Abbe Fenimore. Keep images of loved ones in your daily line of sight, or store photos in easily accessible albums or boxes.

Bring the Outdoors In

A bunch of flowers, an arrangement of branches, or a few houseplants can all bring a breath of fresh air into a room. "It can be as simple as gathering a bunch of branches from a tree in your backyard and popping them in a vase," says designer Linda Eyles. Eyles suggests filling a wide, shallow bowl about halfway with water and floating some of your favorite blooms on the surface for an easy, spa-inspired centerpiece.

If you're worried about wilted petals and neglected plants, choose dried flowers or hearty houseplants and indulge in fresh flowers for special occasions.

Emphasize a View to Nature

If you have a great view from your windows, highlight that portrait of nature with smart window treatment choices. Layering treatments gives you the option of creating a look that suits the day. For example, shades can block out the view when privacy is needed or go up to emphasize the view. A valance over the shade ensures windows are never too stark, and draperies along the sides add softness.

Redo a Room with Simple Changes

Sometimes, simple repetition creates a sense of tension, and all a space needs is a quick refresh to maximize its comfort level. Keep the approach simple but fresh by changing a room's looks with the seasons. Dress up chairs with slipcovers, rearrange some furniture, or add seasonal decor to make a room more welcoming.

Soak Away Stress

Make your bathroom function for both practical and pampering needs. Create a spa-like atmosphere with simple soothing decor ideas like a stack of fluffy towels or a few candles, then take advantage of the space to soak away stress with a bath. "Clear

out the kids' toys, grab your favorite book, and take back the bathroom as your own for a few quiet moments of solitude," suggests creative director and CEO of Kate Lester Interiors, Kate Lester. Warm colors, soft lighting, and soothing music can add to the experience.

IV. Calming Paint Colors to Help You Relax and Unwind at Home

Your home should be your sanctuary: a place that truly represents your personality and all your favorite things. And while design styles vary widely, from **farmhouse** and industrial to **Scandinavian** and eclecticism, one rule rings true for all: Color is crucial for setting the right mood. Whether you opt for a monochrome, complementary, or **color-drenched** aesthetic, some spaces call for an energetic color story, while others may be better suited to calming paint colors.

If you're looking to try a calming paint color in your own home, you're in luck. We've gathered the 20 best calming paint colors to use in any room.



Rich Navy

Benjamin Moore's New Providence Navy is a great calming paint color for grounding a space in sophistication. Dark colors are often thought of as dreary or overbearing, but when used with plenty of natural light and lighter accents, they can help to cocoon a space in calm.



Light Clay

Stark white can sometimes feel too bright, so take a note from Jeremiah Brent and opt for a softer finish with a textured paint. The color **Saint Sauvant by Portola Paints** makes the space feel lived-in rather than like a brand-new build.



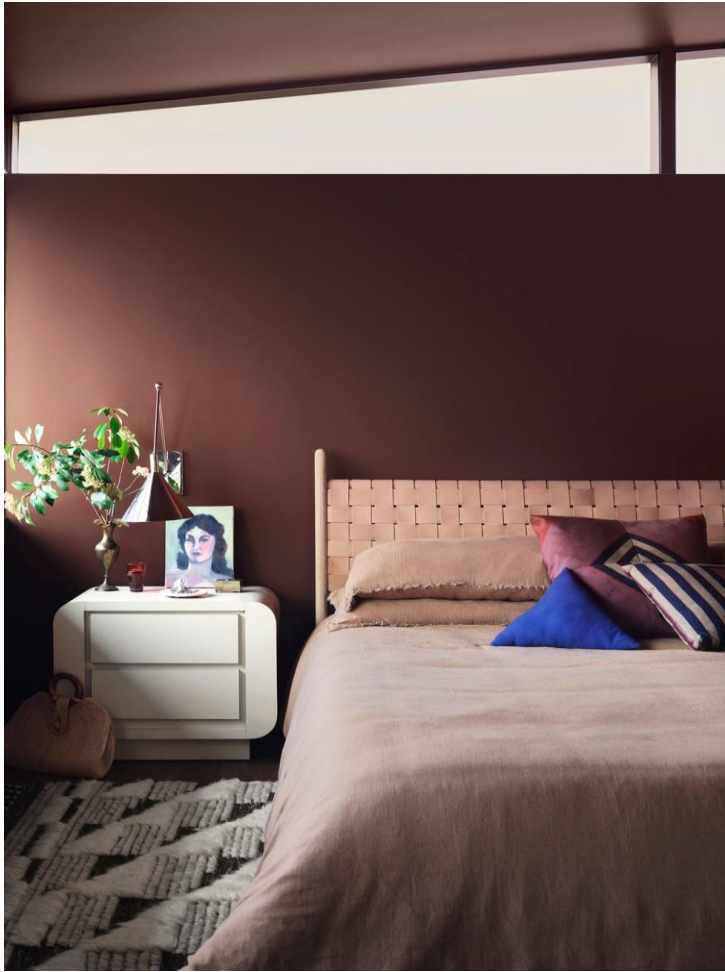
Peachy Pink

It's no surprise that in this North Carolina home where no wall is left white, a pale pink like **Meet Cute by Clare Paints** becomes the neutral hue. This calming paint color is slightly peachy, coordinating with the room's warm tones.



Pale Gray

Interior designer Liz Bonesio opted for a soothing, pale gray in the primary bedroom of this Nashville Home for a calming effect. While the actual color pictured is unknown, we recommend **Backdrop's Ritual Unions** for a similar effect.



Chocolatey Brown

This Texas home has no shortage of natural light. But in the bedroom, a calming paint color is key for a restful night's sleep. Interior designer **Hilary Walker** opted for **Farrow & Ball's Deep Reddish Brown** to help envelop the room with restful energy.



Buttery Yellow

In this Texas guest house, which takes its style cues from a ski chalet, **New White by Farrow & Ball** covers the walls of the bunk room. While bright and cheery during the day, this calming paint color also helps ease the four little ones who sleep here into a more restful state before bedtime.



Aubergine

Ariane Bethea designed this office to have plenty of workspace with a wraparound desk for two people. An abundance of closed storage houses all the practical (but less pretty) components of office work, while open shelving above shows off a collection of objects and books. A rich yet relaxing shade of **Brinjal by Farrow & Ball** blankets the entire room for a soothing backdrop.



Lavender

A 19th-century Virginia home gets a lovely refresh from designer Joe Ireland with coat of **French Lilac** by **Benjamin Moore**. This calming paint color looks both subtle and sweet juxtaposed against the wood and gilt pieces.



Deep Teal

The **Pacific Sea Teal** by **Benjamin Moore** used in this sitting room designed by Avery Cox creates a serene atmosphere, perfect for reading and studying. Cox only painted one of the walls in this calming paint color, along with the door and moldings, so a complementary wallpaper could be applied on the opposite side.



Sage Gray

Choose a muted gray with a green undertone, such as **Raintree Green by Benjamin Moore**, to make your home feel more spa-like than you ever thought possible. This kitchen designed by **Marshall Watson** gives off a tranquil vibe thanks to the calming paint color used.



Warm Peach

“The bedroom gets great light throughout the day, so we wanted to go for a **peachy color** on the walls that would give it a nice glow with the sunlight,” explains Leah Ring of this room her firm Another Human designed. The calming bedroom “feels layered in a comfortable way but not too busy—[you] feel very serene when you’re in the room,” Ring says. The plexiglass butterfly artwork brings a touch of whimsy.



Pale Yellow

Yellow gives off energy *and* warmth. Plus, it's bound to make you feel happy. This room designed by Steven Gambrel (and painted in Benjamin Moore's **Pale Straw**) is all the evidence you need.



Sky Blue

The calming paint color **British Standard Pompadour by Fine Paints of Europe** used in this bedroom by Ellie Cullman is both relaxing and cheerful. Surrounded by classic accents and refined furnishings, this ethereal shade of blue adds just the right amount of energy. We love how it mimics the sky applied in a high gloss on the ceiling.



Classic White

Nothing gives a clean, crisp vibe better than the color white—especially **Benjamin Moore's White Dove**. “It sets the tone for my whole morning,” says Analisse Taft-Gersten of starting her days in this white bathroom.

V. Things people with spotless houses do every day

A bunch of cleaning and home organisational experts tell us the daily habits that help keep their houses in check.

We've all seen that meme, the one that says: “I get more cleaning done in the ten minutes before someone comes over than I do in a week.” We've read it, chuckled, tagged a friend and probably moved straight on with our cluttered, busy lives.

But there are plenty of people out there who never panic at the thought of a visitor, and whose homes just seem to, dare we say it, *stay clean without effort*. We all know

someone like this, whose house seems to exist in a permanent state of spotlessness, even when you happen to drop in on them unexpectedly.

So how do they do it? Turns out, keeping a clean house doesn't require as much effort as you might think. We spoke to a bunch of cleaning and home organisational experts to find out what they do every day to keep their house in tip top shape.

Overwhelmingly, it appears that their secret is to do a little bit each day and to develop habits that keep their homes clutter free without thinking twice. In the process, they exert less energy than those of us who resort to binge clean-ups. Here are 15 things people with tidy homes do every day.

1. They're constantly offloading clutter

"Clutter is like a magnet, clutter attracts clutter," say Amy Revell and Kirsty Farrugia, hosts of The Art of Decluttering podcast, and founder of the professional home organisation service of the same name.

"A home that has less stuff is so much easier to keep tidy," say Amy and Kirsty. "Each day consider what items you no longer need that could leave your home."

There are plenty decluttering methods out there – from the quasi-spiritual KonMari method to the everyday, practical approach taken by Amy and Kirsty. Listen to their podcast on Acast to discover solutions to real-world sources of clutter including sentimental papers, sports equipment, Tupperware and more.

2. They don't shove things into a junk drawer or junk room

So you've done a quick clean up, only to blink your eyes and find that your home is again in a state of ruin. Jo Carmichael, professional organiser and founder of All Sorted Out says hurried, ad hoc tidy-ups just don't work.

"What often happens with the 'fast clean' scenario is that the items strewn around on furniture and the floor are simply shoved into a wardrobe or drawer," she says. "It quickly tumbles back into an unrecognisable pile of clutter once the family returns home and starts living."

3. They store 'like with like'

The solution is to seek out spaces where clutter hides and start storing like with like.

"Keeping like with like," says Jo, "means it's easier to put things away and find them, because t-shirts are together – not mixed up with jeans or socks."

This will allow you to get ready quicker, and put your hands on the item you need without having to look twice.

Storing like items together is the key to keeping drawers and other spaces organised. (Photography: Kristina Soljo)

- *How to organise your wardrobe*
- *How to organise your linen cupboard*
- *5 ways to organise your bathroom vanity*

How to declutter your storage spaces:

4. They keep things in their place

“Make a place for everything,” says Jo. “It’s an age-old saying, but a worthwhile habit to start making your own.”

Jo recommends giving each one of your possessions a dedicated space in the home. If you’re not using something, “don’t put it down, put it away! Aim to put things back after use, every time and every day.”

If you master this habit, Jo says “You’ll be able to find what you need, leave on time, arrive at work or an appointment on time without search missions for lost documents, wallets or keys.”

5. They do it now

“Stopping procrastination is the key to keeping your house tidy,” say Amy and Kirsty.

“Open the mail when it comes in; answer party invites as soon as you get them; sign school notes when they are taken out of school bags and get your kids to put them straight back in their bags to hand in.”

6. They follow the ‘only touch things once’ rule

“Have you noticed in your bedroom that all it takes is one item of clothing to be thrown on the floor next to your bed and before you know it you’ve got a floordrobe?” ask Amy and Kirsty, who say the remedy is to ‘only touch things once.’

“If you get into the habit of putting things away the first time you touch them, you’ll find it easy to maintain a tidy home,” say Amy and Kirsty.

This could also mean taking things ‘one step at a time.’ In the morning resist the urge to pull out the hair-straightener if your makeup is still strewn all over the counter.

As soon as you finish with one item, put it back into its dedicated place and *then* move on to the next step.

7. They tidy up before bed

“When you tidy up your house before bed it makes you feel that you are on top of things,” says Enjo founder, Barb de Corti.

In the kitchen, that could mean stacking the dishwasher, sweeping the floor and wiping down benchtops. In the bedroom, it could mean hanging up jackets, robes and putting away shoes.

Every little bit helps and will allow you to start the new day feeling fresh and accomplished. "I love waking up to a clean home," says Barb.

Keep those good feelings flowing by making your bed as soon as you wake up.

VI. 12 Things You Should Never Do When Cleaning

A well-kept house promotes quality indoor air, reduces stress, brings positivity, and keeps allergens and ailments at bay. Regular house cleaning chores help maintain an orderly and welcoming indoor environment. However, most homeowners make silly mistakes that cause more harm than good. All their efforts can be in vain, even if they are cleaning with the best intentions.

Thus, it is important to follow proven techniques and tools when sprucing up the dirt-laden abode. Many vacate cleaning Perth experts believe that tried-and-tested stain or grease removal methods can prevent surfaces from getting damaged or discoloured.

So, **here are 12 things you should never do when cleaning your home.** Instead of taking a shortcut, focus on leveraging the benefits of the right process that can deliver your desired results.

Let's Get Started!

1. Dusting Surfaces Randomly

Mopping the floors first and dusting shelves and walls last is not an efficient way to spruce up a room. This can spread dust and debris on already cleaned surfaces and increase your workload.



Professionals always follow a top-to-bottom approach when performing budget vacate cleaning Perth. You should also start from your ceiling fans, walls, light fixtures, and fittings and work your way towards windows, blinds, door tracks, baseboards, and floors. This can save you time and energy.

2. Mixing Cleaning Products

Homeowners should avoid mixing cleaning products, especially store-bought ones that contain ammonia and bleach. Certain combinations can produce lethal fumes that can cause respiratory disorders, skin and eye infections and other serious health hazards. Here are some of the most common cleaning products you should never mix:

- Bleach + Ammonia Cleaners = This can cause chest pain or shortness of breathe
- Bleach + Vinegar = This can lead to burning, watery eyes, coughing, and breathing issues.
- Rubbing Alcohol + Bleach/Ammonia = Producing highly toxic fumes in your home.
- Drain Cleaners + Other Store-Bought Products = This can also be corrosive for household use.

3. Using Dirty Cleaning Tools

Dirty cleaning tools, such as a microfiber cloth, vacuum cleaner, and mop, are less effective in tackling dirt, grime, and grease. Cleaning with a dirty sponge or rag can even cause cross-contamination, ruining all your efforts. These tools can further linger unpleasant odours due to the accumulation of debris and bacteria.

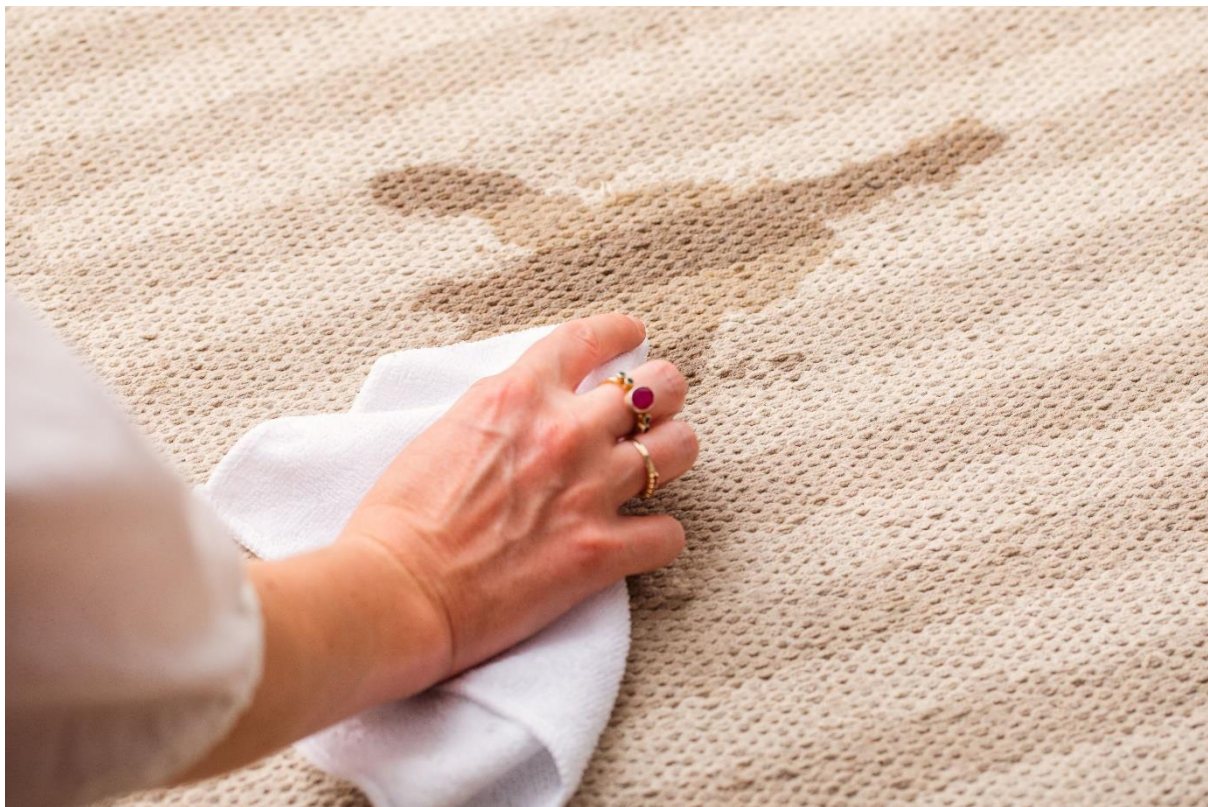
So, ensure you clean your cleaning tools and gadgets after every use. Wash your kitchen cleaning rags, sponges, brushes and cloths in hot water. For a vacuum cleaner, empty the bin and clean the filter to boost its efficiency and longevity. Read the manuals that can assist you in noise management when using the gadget.

4. Skipping the Test Patch

Whether you are cleaning dirt-laden upholstery furniture or hardwood floors, always test the cleaning product on an inconspicuous spot first. This can prevent the surface from getting discoloured or damaged, especially delicate ones such as fabric, plush carpets, stone surfaces, painted walls, and polished wood surfaces.

5. Scrubbing Or Abrasively Rubbing Carpet Stains

Do not scrubbing or rubbing carpet stains abrasively. This can penetrate the stain further and damage or discolour the delicate fibre or fabric.



Instead, use a blotting technique using microfiber cloth or paper towel. It is good to act on spills immediately to remove excess moisture. After that, dampen a cloth in a cleaning solution and gently blot the surface.

6. Using Toxic Cleaning Products

There is no denying that fancy store-bought cleaners are effective in removing stains and grime without much elbow grease. However, excessive use can damage

surfaces over time. In fact, exposure to ammonia, bleach, phosphates, and semi-volatile organic compounds can cause harm to humans and the environment.

So, adopt green cleaning practices and replace your traditional cleaners with natural ones. Use white vinegar, hydrogen peroxide, baking soda, castile soap, essential oils and lemons to clean and disinfect your home.

7. No Cleaning Kitchen Appliances Inside and Outside

Neglecting kitchen appliances can turn into a rental dispute. You may even lose your hard-earned bond money. Ensure you clean inside and outside your kitchen appliances, such as vinegar and baking soda. Remove caked-on gunk, grease and grime inside of your microwave, oven, dishwasher and refrigerator to maintain the hygiene level of your home.

8. Washing Windows on A Sunny Day

First of all, you should never clean your windows on a sunny day. The direct heat causes the cleaning solution to dry quickly, leaving nasty streaks behind.



It is always good to wash your windows inside and outside on a cloudy day or in the evening when there is no direct sunlight. Also, use a rubber squeegee instead of a newspaper to wipe down the glass screen to achieve sparkling results and make your home energy-efficient via natural light and air.

9. Rushing Through the Task

Believe it or not, effective housecleaning requires time and elbow grease. When dislodging grease and grime, make sure you allow the product to sit for a few minutes. This will break down the gunk and make your work easier.

Also, prepare a proper house cleaning schedule—daily, weekly, monthly, and occasionally—to streamline the process.

10. Applying Abrasive Cleaner on Delicate Surfaces

White vinegar is one of the best natural cleaning agents for homes. However, it is not ideal for cleaning natural stone surfaces like marble, granite, limestone, etc. Similarly, abrasive sponges and pads can leave scratches on stainless steel and glass behind.

So, it is good to use non-abrasive cleaning supplies on delicate surfaces. You can use baking soda instead of vinegar to clean natural stone surfaces. Magic erasers can also do wonders in cleaning glass surfaces, stainless steel and walls.

11. Ignoring Home Ventilation

Before you begin the cleaning session, make sure you open windows and doors for proper ventilation. This can prevent you from inhaling the fumes of cleaning products and other cleaning solutions. Open your windows, especially when tackling mould and mildew stains.

12. Not Disinfecting Highly-Touched Spots

Removing visible dust and stains is not enough to achieve a clean and hygienic indoor environment. According to vacate cleaning Perth professionals, you should also need to disinfect high-touched surfaces to prevent cross-contamination. Use an approved disinfecting spray or dampen a cloth in rubbing alcohol to banish germs and bacteria from door knobs, light switches, handles, toilet flush, faucets and sinks, pet toys, etc.



These are 12 things you should never do when sprucing up your home. Follow the right strategies approved by professional cleaners and tackle dirt, grime, and germs to attain a sterile home.

CONCLUSION

The essence of a warm and inviting home lies in the harmonious interplay of physical and emotional elements. By focusing on thoughtful design, meaningful personal touches, and fostering positive energy, anyone can create a space that radiates comfort and connection. Ultimately, a welcoming home is not just a place; it is a feeling—a reflection of love, care, and individuality.

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