

LOOKING AFTER YOUR HOME

When you're renting, it's important make the place feel like it's your own. Part of making a rental property feel like it's your own, is looking after the property and keeping the place in great condition. Keep reading below for our top tips on looking after your place to make sure you feel at home, while keeping your landlord and property manager happy.

Keep things clean and tidy

Make sure you keep your place feeling clean and fresh by regularly fixing any marks or holes in your walls, wiping dusty surfaces, vacuuming and mopping your floors, and putting away your dishes. Spending a little bit of time each week to do these jobs around the house will help your living space feel clean and fresh at all times.

Keep the bathroom clean

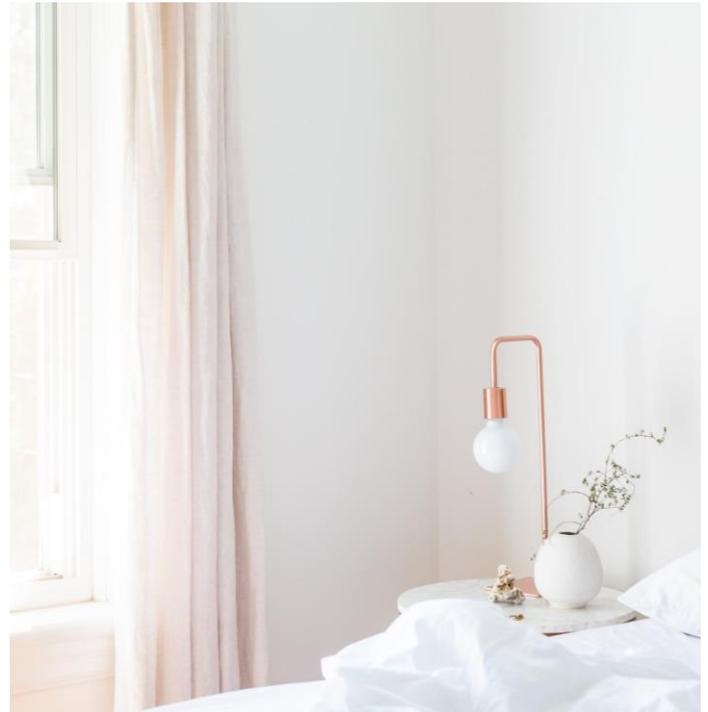
Cleaning the bathroom doesn't need to take all day, especially if you're keeping it clean throughout the week. Make sure you wipe down any marks off your vanity and vanity mirror, shower screens, and toilet each day so dirt doesn't build up. If you have a shower screen that has stubborn watermarks, try using CLR or a specialised cleaning solution to remove the marks. Wiping down your shower screens regularly with a squeegee will also keep watermarks from staining your shower screen.

Keep the garden presentable

If you have a yard and garden at your property, make sure you take some time each fortnight to cut the grass, water the plants and get rid of any weeds in the garden beds. Spending a little time regularly to do this will save you hours of hard work tidying up overgrown and unruly plants.

Don't forget about the range hood fan and air conditioner filters

It can be easy to forget about cleaning your range hood fan and air-con filters when they're tucked away out of site.



Keep your range hood fan cover clean by removing it and gently washing it with warm soapy water every couple of weeks. To clean your air conditioning filters, remove the filter covers and get rid of any dust and dirt build up before placing them back into the unit.

Let the fresh air inside

If you're out of the house at work all day, your home can often feel stuffy and stale because the windows and doors have been closed all day. When you're home and the weather is fine, leave your windows and doors open for a couple of hours each day to let fresh air into the property.

Following the steps above regularly will help keep your place in top condition and will make your living space feel clean and fresh at all times.

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PERSONALISING YOUR RENTAL PROPERTY

One of the hardest parts of renting is personalising your space without making any permanent changes to the property. Keep reading below for our tips to personalise your space while keeping within the bounds of what you can do to change your living space in a rental property.

Don't forget to accessorise

One of the easiest ways to add some personality to your space is with some simple home accessories. Think colourful cushions, fragrant candles and throw blankets or rugs. Adding these items to your space will inject some affordable personality and colour into your space, without the stress of potentially damaging your property.

Display photos and souvenirs

Do you have some family photos or souvenirs from your travels that you'd like to display around your home? Put your favourite photos in frames and display them on surfaces like your coffee table, a desk, or on the walls if there are pre-existing hooks available.

Add some art

Check the walls in your property for any pre-existing hooks where you could add a piece of artwork. With many stores like Kmart and Officeworks selling canvas and framed artworks at affordable prices, you can add some colour to your walls without breaking the bank or your lease!

Change your lighting

Changing the wattage of your light globes or adding some fun lamps to a space can completely transform the environment you create. Try using light globes that produce soft light in bedrooms and relaxing living areas to create a sense of tranquility. If there's a corner of your home that feels dark or empty, try adding a stylish floor lamp to brighten up your space.

Mirrors

Mirrors are a great way to make a place feel bigger. Try setting up a full-length mirror on your floor or on a stand in the corner of a room to make it feel more spacious. You can also use mirrors to reflect light if you want to take advantage of the morning or afternoon sun that streams into your property.

Making small changes and additions to your space can have a big impact, without permanently changing your property. Try some of these affordable tips today to personalise your space and make it feel like home.



VEGAN MANGO COCONUT SMOOTHIE



Green smoothies are a fantastic way to pack in all the vital nutrients that we need from fruits and vegetables every day. With a creamy coconut milk base and the sweetness of frozen mango, Kitchen Treaty's vegan mango coconut smoothie is a delicious way to get your daily dose of greens.

Serves: 1 large smoothie

Prep time: 5 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 cup fresh washed spinach leaves, packed
- 1 cup fresh or frozen mango cubes
- 1/2 medium banana
- 3/4 cup light canned coconut milk (can substitute almond milk, but the end result might not be as creamy or have coconut flavour)
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup ice cubes

Optional additions:

- 1 tablespoon coconut butter (for more coconut flavour, fibre, and a little protein)
- 1 tablespoon ground flaxseeds (these add fibre, omega-3 fatty acids, and a little protein)
- Chopped mango or coconut for topping

Directions:

1. Place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth.
2. Pour into glasses, add toppings if desired, and serve with a straw.

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