



Step-by-Step Home Makeover Ideas for a Fresh Start



ABSTRACT

Transforming your living space can do wonders for your comfort, mood, and lifestyle. This guide explores practical step-by-step home makeover ideas that help you refresh your surroundings, enhance functionality, and create a welcoming atmosphere for a new beginning.

INTRODUCTION

A home makeover isn't just about new décor it's about starting fresh and creating a space that truly reflects your personality and goals. Whether you've recently moved or simply crave a change, small updates like decluttering, repainting, rearranging furniture, or adding greenery can bring new life to your home. These makeover steps will help you reimagine your space and set the tone for a positive chapter ahead.

I. How to Declutter Your Home: 10 Creative Decluttering Tips



But often, they begin to feel overwhelmed, anxious, and defeated around the idea of owning less. That's too bad. Learning how to declutter your home and (and as a result, decluttering your life) doesn't need to be as painful as some make it out to be. And the benefits are numerous.

The Benefits of Decluttering Your Life

There are many benefits to owning fewer possessions. Even then, it's tough to move into action. That is... until the many benefits of getting rid of clutter reveal themselves:

Less to clean. Cleaning is already enough of a chore, but having to clean around things you have zero emotional attachment to (or worse, actively dislike) makes cleaning the house much more stressful.

Less to organize. Finding things suddenly become easier. Things don't just "disappear" anymore. You can actually move around your home and enjoy the space, instead of moving around things that are in the way.

Less stress. Looking around at the clutter is a nausea-inducing sight once your home becomes cluttered enough. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to look around and see a home you love?

Less debt. Spending less time shopping for material possessions and adding to the clutter means your wallet and bank accounts remain fuller, your credit cards' statements are lower, and your home doesn't get filled with costly things you don't need.

More financial freedom. Most American households live paycheck to paycheck (59% according to a recent **survey done by Charles Schwab**) Nearly half of those surveyed carry credit card debt. Decluttering, paired with minimalism, will help you build up savings to keep you protected in case of unexpected emergencies.

More energy for your greatest passions. With less debt, more financial freedom, and a clean home, you can now focus your energy on the things you enjoy instead of worrying about "Keeping up with the Joneses." This will ultimately **make you happier**.

Ok, so now you know the benefits of decluttering your life, but you may be getting tripped up by the very next question... where in the world do you begin?

10 Creative Decluttering Tips

If you're struggling and need guidance on how to declutter, you'll need to get creative with your plans. Here are several interesting decluttering tips to get you started on decluttering your home:

- **Start with 5 minutes at a time.** If you're new to decluttering, you can slowly build momentum with just five minutes a day.
- **Give one item away each day.** This would remove 365 items every single year from your home. If you increased this to 2 per day, you would have given away 730 items you no longer needed. Increase this number once it gets too easy.

- **Fill an entire trash bag.** Get a trash bag and fill it as fast as you can with things you can donate at Goodwill.
- **Donate clothes you never wear.** To identify them, simply hang all your clothes with hangers in the reverse direction. After wearing an item, face the hanger in the correct direction. Discard the clothes you never touched after a few months.
- **Create a decluttering checklist.** It's a lot easier to declutter when you have a visual representation of where you need to get started. You can use [our decluttering checklist](#).
- **Take the 12-12-12 challenge.** Locate 12 items to throw away, 12 to donate, and 12 to be returned to their proper home.
- **View your home as a first-time visitor.** It's easy to "forget" what your home looks like to a new visitor. Enter your home as if you're visiting the home of a friend. Write down your first impression on how clean and organized the home is and make changes.
- **Take before and after photos of a small area.** Choose one part of your home, like your kitchen counter, and take a photo of a small area. Quickly clean off the items in the photo and take an after photo. Once you see how your home *could* look, it becomes easier to start decluttering more of your home.



- **Get help from a friend.** Have a friend or family member go through your home and suggest a handful of big items to throw away or give to someone else. If you defend the item and want to keep it, your friend has to agree with your reason. If they don't agree, it's time to get rid of it.

- **Use the Four-Box Method.** Get four boxes and label them: trash, give away, keep, or re-locate. Enter any room in your home and place each item into one of the following boxes. Don't skip a single item, no matter how insignificant you may think it is. This may take days, weeks, or months, but it will help you see how many items you really own and you'll know exactly what to do with each item.

No matter which decluttering tip you choose to get started – whether it be one of these ten or one of countless others – the goal is to take your first step in decluttering your life with excitement behind it.

There is a beautiful world of freedom and fresh breath hiding behind that clutter. Deciding how to declutter your home is up to you.

For more decluttering tips, watch this short video we put together. In it, I provide 10 quick decluttering projects, each completable in just 5 minutes or less:

When should I declutter?

This is a personal question. When you find yourself overwhelmed by your possessions and tied down, it usually means you're ready to start making a change. Note that this feeling is just a broad litmus test. The feeling of overwhelm can be different for everyone.

II. 7 quick ways to refresh your home with paint

Paint has long been celebrated as a magical tool with the power to transform whatever surface or object it's applied to. Inside or out, when it comes to DIY paint projects, picking up a brush is still the most budget-friendly and achievable way to transform every part of your home.

Don't have the time or the money to repaint your entire house? We've got you! These DIY paint projects are all about creating maximum impact with minimal effort (and cost), and are guaranteed to add character and personality to any home that's in need of a refresh. Plus, with the right tools and a can-do attitude, you can knock these over in no time at all – and we actually mean it.

From designer detailing and decorative updates, to statement finishes and everything in between, these seven weekend wonders will help you create a space that sings with personal style.

Easy DIY paint projects to tackle in a weekend

A bold archway painted in Dragon's Eye pops against the peach tones of the walls, painted in Majolica, both from Porter's Paints. (Photography: Will Horner. Styling: Corina Koch)

Paint an archway

People are welcoming colour back into their homes in a big way, and one of the biggest trends we're seeing is the application of **bold, contrasting colour** as a way to highlight doorways.

When opting for a contrasting colour, it's all about selecting a hue that speaks to the two spaces visible through the doorway. Find your inspiration from surrounding materials, such as the existing wall colour, furnishings or flooring, or, simply go through the colour swatch of your favourite paint brand for a push in the right direction.

If you're feeling even bolder, why not try a striped pattern, a scalloped edge, some wallpaper – or even a decorative motif!

Paint your internal doors

It's what's on the inside that counts when it comes to decorative doorways that make a statement

Even interior doors can be given a colourful makeover with a new coat of paint. Opt for a contrasting colour to your walls, or go for a hue featured in an **artwork** hanging elsewhere in the room to amplify its effect. Choose heavy duty semi- or full gloss paint to stand up to high traffic and highlight the door's detail.

Pro tips: The easiest way to paint an internal door is to carefully remove it from the doorframe, but before you do, make sure to check how much room there is between the door and the frame when closed. If the space is tight, then you'll need to sand your edges to allow for the layers of fresh paint.

When removing a door from its frame, create a secure base by wedging door stops underneath, then remove the hinges followed by any handles or hooks, making sure to keep all the elements together in a zip lock bag for safe storage.



Add a colourful feature wall

A feature wall will add impact without having to commit to painting an entire room. A DIY paint project favourite for a reason, this is a great way to start building up confidence and skills without becoming overwhelmed by the idea of a whole room refresh.

Selecting a contrasting colour will demand attention – **like in this retro-inspired home** – so it's important to keep your feature wall in a place that makes sense, such as where the bed usually sits in a bedroom, or against the TV wall in a living space.

Pro tips: Selecting a shade that's just slightly darker, or lighter, than the rest of the room will create a subtle finish that adds depth and visual interest without having to commit to a standout colour.

Transform a piece of furniture

One of the easiest ways to add personality to a room, or make it feel brand new, is to upcycle a beloved or tired piece of furniture – like this **Ikea drawer set**. It's the perfect thing to do on a lazy Sunday afternoon.

We used **Jolie Paints** from Pepperwhites in 'French Blue' and 'Marigold' to transform this affordable dresser two ways, for a quick and easy way to update a child's room without busting the budget. Plus, if you want to change design direction as your child grows, all it takes is a new coat of paint to keep the piece growing with them.

Pro tips: Not all paints are created equal. Most paints will require some serious prep work and a primer before you get started. Others, like the **Jolie Home** range, or **Blake & Taylor** chalk paints are ready to apply without need for a primer. Looking

for some more direction? Check out our [step-by-step guide to upcycling furniture here](#).

Paint a decorative bedhead

Feeling like your bedroom needs a boost? Why not try your hand at painting your own bedhead or decorative detail. Find a pattern, style or shape you'd like you recreate – such as the scalloped effect used in the family **home of food stylist and editor, Emma Knowles** – and get to work.

Start by selecting a colour that feels right in the space, whether influenced by your favourite bedding, the existing wall colour, or a décor piece, and map out the area you want to create with a steady hand and some good quality painter's tape. Prep the area as required, following with at least two coats of your chosen paint.

If you're lacking in confidence, try using a decal or stencil to mark out your design before committing to your creative vision.

Pro tips: For a rectangular style, use a level to ensure your lines are straight and painter's tape to keep the lines crisp and defined. If you're opting for a shapely finish such as an arc or a curved edge, use a cutting-in brush loaded with paint to easily (but slowly) define your outline, before taking on the rest with a regular paint brush.

Upcycle your outdoor pieces

When the budget didn't extend to the Scandinavian outdoor piece this homeowner had envisioned **for her new home**, she decided to take matters into her own hands, finding a similar style at the local Bunnings and painting her vision into existence. The result was a stylish success!

Whatever your vision, it's worth seeing if your existing furniture can be upcycled to create the look and feel you're after. Easy to apply outdoor furniture sprays, such as the Rust-Oleum range from Bunnings, or the Squirts range from White Knight, come in a variety of on-trend and classic colourways and do all the hard work for you with built-in primers.

If you're looking for a smaller DIY paint project, then try your hand at **repurposing your pot plants** for a fraction of the cost of buying designer planters.

Need more inspiration? Take a look at some of **our favourite outdoor settings** to get your creative wheels turning.

Pro tips: Get your prep done first by removing any rust or flaking paint with a proper sanding before embarking on your colour journey. A good base will ensure your new coat of paint will stand up to the demands of its outdoor environment.

Handpainted wardrobes in the home of Silvia Colloca were brought to life by interior designer Jono Fleming. (Photography: Jacqui Turk | Styling: Jono Fleming)

Go bespoke on a budget

Before you give up on your Pinterest dreams of filling your home with bespoke furnishings and finishes, consider giving it a go yourself. Interior designer **Jono Fleming helped his client, and long-time friend**, to achieve this look by picking up a brush, and making it his personal mission to create a high-end finish – minus the inflated price tag.

By adding detailing or custom paint finishes to flatpack, affordable or less-than-desirable pieces, you can hack your way to a piece of designer furniture that'll have people begging to know where you got it! And you'll be all the more smug for knowing it's a one-of-a-kind.

III. 7 Lighting Trends That Will Elevate Your Home Design In 2025

Lighting is instrumental in creating ambiance in our living spaces and can impact moods and aesthetics with its subtle yet significant presence. While lighting is a necessary part of any room in your home, it doesn't have to be strictly utilitarian. Gone are the days of lights having the sole purpose of illuminating dark spaces; these days, when utilized correctly, lighting can be a dynamic tool for infusing personality and character into our homes.

By getting creative with your lighting choices, you can brighten up your space while adding an exciting design element. Here are some of the top lighting trends for 2025 that you can try in your home.

1. Indirect Lighting



Having one main overhead light can be harsh and overbearing; that's why we love utilizing several sources of indirect lighting to brighten up a space instead. You can create a warm and welcoming ambiance by building layers of light with backlit fixtures, like mirrors and televisions; ambient lighting, like table lamps and wall sconces; and ring lights that disperse the brightness in all directions. Adding several means of indirect lighting within a room allows you to create a space that exudes softness and serenity while still being appropriately lit up.

2. Textures

When you want to add texture to a space you probably think of hanging curtains, adding throws like pillows and blankets, and incorporating other textiles. However, an emerging home design trend is infusing texture through your lighting fixtures. Lights don't have to blend into your decor, especially when you choose a fixture made of something interesting.

Playing with textures like mixing concrete with rattan or other naturals, choosing a fixture made of hand-carved crystal or glass, opting for something hand-foraged, or swapping your monochromatic finishes for something more fun, bold and dynamic can help create a space that's both beautiful and full of movement.

3. Unique Shapes

Home decor preferences aren't one size fits all, so your lighting choices don't have to be either. And while some lighting shapes will never go out of style, 2025 is the year of thinking outside the box. This year, we're seeing unique choices in the shape of lighting fixtures, to the point where they add a lot to your home as a piece of art.

could. Expect to see movement created through mixed materials like metal and linen pendants, statements made with lights featuring unique silhouettes like wide rings, and intricate chandeliers that emulate the luxe look of commercial hospitality, like the ones you'd see in your favorite hotel.

4. Cordless or Rechargeable Lamps

Are cords ruining the sleek, streamlined look of your space? Do you find your home decor is limited by the accessibility of power outlets when lighting up different areas of your home? Cordless and rechargeable lamps may just be the solution you're looking for to make these problems a thing of the past. The best part? These lights are easily portable and you can even take them outside. With this 2025 lighting trend, you'll never have unsightly cords snaking across your floor again.

5. Clear Glass on Fixtures

Frosted and seeded glass have been commonly seen throughout many parts of the home over the years, including on glass doors, drinkware, and, of course, lighting fixtures. However, for 2025, we're seeing a shift, specifically in lighting, to fixtures with clear glass. Not only does this create a cleaner and upscale look, but it also evokes a sense of openness within your space. Additionally, clear glass allows light to distribute unfiltered, brightening up your space even more.

6. Dimmable Bulbs



A common thread in home design trends this year is the idea of personalization and making your home function specifically for you. In the world of lighting, this is made possible with the use of dimmable bulbs. The ability to control the exact intensity of your lighting is beneficial for many reasons. Not only do dimmable bulbs help save energy, but by making your lights stronger and dimmer throughout the day, you can help create the ambiance you want in your space.

7. Matte Black



While bronze and set nickel fixtures were once all the rage, matte black is a design trend we've seen taking off over the last year or so, and it's now making its way into lighting fixtures. Choosing matte black lighting fixtures brings a timeless, yet modern feel, to whatever room you add it to. Whether you opt for something subtle like a matte black table lamp or choose to make a statement with a more oversized statement chandelier, matte black is a great choice for amping up the lighting in any part of your home.

IV. Move-In Cleaning: How to Start Fresh with a Spotless Home

Moving into a new home in the hotspots of Adelaide, South Australia, is a major milestone. However, the process can be overwhelming, especially when you need to clean up the entire space before the final move-in. Whether relocating into an old residential property or a newly constructed apartment, ensure you tackle accumulated dirt and grime for a fresh start to prevent the spread of germs and ailments. That's where attention-to-detail move-in cleaning comes into play.

Many homeowners even prefer hiring a professional cleaning company to achieve sparkling results without a hint of stress. Such companies are expert in a quality end of lease cleaning Adelaide or attention-to-detail house cleaning services.

However, if you opt for a DIY cleaning session and preparing for the new beginning then have a **look at the following move-in cleaning tips and create a germ-free**

and dust-free home. Creating a welcoming environment ensures a hassle-free post-relocation, especially if you have children and pets.

Let's Get Started!

1. Stock Up on Necessary Cleaning Supplies

It can be difficult to arrange cleaning supplies during the home relocation process. So, it is good to arrange everything in advance and streamline the process. All you need is:

- Microfiber cloths
- Telescopic dusters
- A vacuum cleaner with brush attachments
- Sponges
- Assorted brushes
- A toilet brush
- A bucket and a mop
- All-purpose cleaner
- Grease remover
- Baking Soda
- Essential oils
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Rubbing alcohol
- Magic eraser,
- Warm water, etc

Tip: Avoid using store-bought cleaners. They contain harmful chemicals that can pollute the indoor air and lead to various health hazards, such as allergies, respiratory problems, asthma, etc

2. Dust From Top to Bottom

Start the move-in cleaning process from the top of your rooms. Take one room at a time and tackle loose dirt and dust particles first. Grab a microfiber duster with an extendable handle to remove accumulated dust, cobwebs, insect marks and pollen from ceiling fans, walls, mouldings, shelves, cabinet tops, and other surfaces. Next, move down to windows, door tracks, baseboards, and floors. Ensure you carefully clean the painted walls to prevent damage or discolouration.



Tip: It becomes super easy to clean the entire house when it is empty. Use this time and spruce up property in Adelaide like a pro.

3. Achieve Spotless Windows

Windows may become dull and dirty during construction or renovation projects. Therefore, it is good to clean windows inside and outside to promote a fresh, positive, and welcoming indoor environment.

Remove dust and debris with a brush or a dry cloth. Next, spray white vinegar and warm water and gently scrub with a sponge or a cloth. Cover the nooks and crannies. Next, run a rubber squeegee to achieve streak-free results. Make sure you clean window sills, frames, and panes effectively.

For the exterior part, end of lease cleaning Adelaide experts recommend pressure washing. It can remove paint spills, splatters and bird droppings without causing any damage.

4. Deep Clean The Kitchen

Believe it or not, the kitchen is one of the most crucial areas to clean before you move in. Inspect all the areas and wipe down the cabinets, windows, countertops, sink, and appliances (if any). You can give the sink and faucets a thorough clean by removing hard water stains and other grime.

Tip: Use baking soda for countertops, oven and natural stone surfaces for sparkling results.

5. Scrub Bathroom Fixtures and Fittings

Whether you are moving in or moving out of a home, bathrooms are always tough to handle. It is good to clean all fixtures and fittings from top to bottom and tackle dirt and grime effectively. Look for water leakage issues and fix them before the final move-in. Here is a quick checklist to clean the entire bathroom:

- Scrub the showerhead, shower walls and doors using a white vinegar solution
- Clean the bathtub using baking soda or castile soap solution
- Wash the curtains
- Cleaning grout lines and tiles
- Clean a drain sink using all-natural products
- Remove brown stains and grime from your toilet seat using vinegar and baking soda. Scrub with a toilet brush. Clean behind the “S” bend for sparkling results
- Clean and disinfect faucets and counters.
- Mop the floors



6. Vacuum Carpets and Rugs

Use a HEPA-filtered vacuum cleaner with the right brush attachment to remove accumulated dust and dirt from carpets and rugs. This will prevent the spread of allergens and promote a fresh start with a spotless home.

Tip: Blot the carpet stains using a microfiber cloth. Spray vinegar solution and blot the surface for sparkling results.

7. Disinfect the High-Touch Spots

Ensure you pay special attention to high-touch areas of your new home to kill lingering germs and bacteria before you move in. You can use a rubbing alcohol spray to disinfect doorknobs, handles, light switches, toilet flush, faucets, cabinet door handles, remote controls, etc. This ensures a clean, sanitised and hygienic home environment.

8. Sweep and Mop Floors

There is no denying that floors are the breeding ground for dirt, grime, and stains. Make sure you deep clean the surface using a vacuum cleaner or a broom. Remove dirt and dust under heavy furniture. Use warm, soapy water to mop the floors. Avoid using excess water to prevent moisture buildup. For spot-cleaning any stains and spills, use a castile soap solution.

9. Outdoor Cleaning is Essential

It is important to clean the outdoor areas of your new home. Sweep porches, decks, and patios, and wipe down outdoor furniture, stains, grime and debris from driveways and mudrooms. This is also crucial when moving out of your rental property. You can outsource a budget end of lease cleaning Adelaide service for the entire property and secure your hard-earned bond money. They leave no signs of dirt and grime behind, helping you pass the final rental inspection with ease.

These are some of the best tips and tricks to help you carry out move-in cleaning to ensure a fresh start in a new home. It is good to create a proper checklist and schedule the process before the arrival of packed boxes, furniture pieces and other household belongings.

V. The Ultimate Cleaning Checklist Before Having Company Over

Most homes need a bit of cleaning and refreshing to look their best before guests arrive. If your home isn't always pristine, how much cleaning you can do is directly related to how much time you have before the company arrives.

If you only have a day or a couple of hours before everyone arrives, you can still give the impression of a clean house with this ultimate checklist that'll tidy up your home in a short amount of time.



Here are a few tips to keep in mind so you spend your limited cleaning time effectively.

- Zero in on the rooms your guests are sure to use—entryways, living areas, bathrooms, and for overnight guests, bedrooms. Don't begin cleaning areas like the laundry room, they will never see.
- Engage the entire family. Even young children can help. Assign tasks that can be done simultaneously. One person can vacuum while another declutters.
- Work quickly and make the most impact with the least amount of work. Remove clutter instead of cleaning the oven. If you don't have time to sort and put away all of the clutter, gather it in a laundry basket and hide it in a closet!
- Cleaning doesn't have to be done all in one day before your guests arrive—setting out a multi-day cleaning schedule is a great way to tackle the whole house without feeling overwhelmed.

Sweep and Clean the Entrance

Whether your guests use the front or back door, the entryway makes the first impression of your home.

Take a few minutes to sweep away debris and shake out the welcome mat. If you have a glass door, quickly wipe away fingerprints and smudges to set the tone of a clean home.

Don't forget to look around the area just inside the door. Corral shoes in a basket, stash the pile of mail in a drawer, and make a little space in the coat closet for guests' coats.

Tip

If you have an entryway console table, paying extra attention to decluttering that area and having a candle lit or aroma diffuser running when your guests arrive will be a nice touch for creating a welcoming sensory experience

Declutter and Straighten Living Areas

After the entrance, concentrate on the space where your friends usually gather, like the living room. To be efficient—grab a box or laundry basket and work around the room clockwise picking up anything that is adding clutter to the area. As you move around the room, straighten and fluff pillows and fold throws.

Keep a microfiber duster in your hand to quickly dust tables and shelves.

Make the Guest Bathroom Shine

Nothing says "yuck" much more than a dirty bathroom. Having a clean bathroom will help guests forgive a bit of messiness in the rest of the house.

Sweep personal items into drawers or the medicine cabinet. Grab some disinfecting wipes and wipe down counters and sinks. Clean the mirrors and make sure that the toilet sparkles.



Check that toilet paper is fully stocked, put out fresh hand towels, and a new bar of soap, or make sure the soap dispenser is full. If you have time, sweep and mop the bathroom floor.

Declutter and Clean the Kitchen

Everyone ends up in the kitchen at some point, so make sure to get all of the dirty dishes into the dishwasher. Wash them in the sink, or, in a real emergency, hide them in the oven!

Put away as much clutter from the counters as you can and wipe them down with a disinfecting wipe. Clean the sink and wipe away fingerprints from appliances. If you have time, quickly sweep or vacuum the floor and use a damp mop to remove obvious dirt.

Prepare Rooms

If you have time to straighten bedrooms, make the beds, hide clutter, and close drawers and closets. Vacuum the floors and dust the furniture. If you don't have time, close the door to the bedroom.

If guests will be spending the night, make sure the bed has fresh linen and there are fresh bath towels available. Make some room for their suitcase and a spot in the closet so they can hang clothes.

Vacuum or Damp Mop Floors

Most people capture an overall image of a room at eye level. If you have removed clutter and straightened a room, there is less focus on the floor.

But, if you have time, vacuuming, sweeping, or damp mopping floors are always a good idea.

If you have time, sprinkle carpets with dry baking soda and allow them to absorb odors for at least 30 minutes. As you vacuum it away, the carpet will smell fresher and look brighter. Keep a duster close by so you can take care of spiderwebs and obvious dust as you vacuum.

Freshen the Air

We all get used to the usual smell of our home. But, others may not find that smell too pleasing so you might want to freshen the air.

If you have time, open windows and turn on vents to draw out cooking and pet odors.

Empty trash cans, use a fabric and air freshener that traps odors, light a scented candle, or turn on an essential oil diffuser.

One trick that every real estate agent knows is to bake some cookies. Keep a roll of cookie dough on hand to immediately give your home a wonderful aroma and you'll have the treat to serve guests.

Add Some Final Touches

Once things are under control, light a candle, turn on some music, and hunt out some clean glasses or cups, so you can offer your guests something to drink. Try to relax and focus on the real reason the company has arrived—to enjoy visiting with you and your family.



CONCLUSION

A well-planned home makeover can rejuvenate your living environment and mindset. By following simple yet effective steps, you can design a home that feels both beautiful and functional. Embrace this transformation as an opportunity to start anew and enjoy the comfort of a refreshed, inspiring space.

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