

HOW TO MAKE YOU HOME GUEST FRIENDLY



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ABSTRACT

Creating a guest-friendly home involves more than just tidying up; it's about ensuring that your space is inviting, comfortable, and functional for visitors. Start by decluttering key areas like the living room, kitchen, and bathroom, ensuring they are clean and organized. A welcoming entryway sets the tone, so add thoughtful touches like a welcome mat and a place for guests to store their shoes or coats. Comfortable seating is essential, so arrange your furniture to encourage conversation and provide plenty of cozy throws or pillows. Fresh air and pleasant scents, like natural air fresheners or flowers, can also make a big difference in how welcoming your home feels.



Beyond appearance, consider practical details that enhance comfort for your guests. Ensure you have extra toiletries, towels, and blankets available, and adjust the lighting and temperature to create a relaxing atmosphere. If guests are staying overnight, prepare a comfortable sleeping area with clean bedding and personal touches like bedside lighting or fresh flowers. By combining cleanliness, comfort,

and thoughtful details, you can create a space that makes your guests feel at home from the moment they arrive.

LET'S GET STARTED

Making your home guest-friendly means creating a space that feels inviting, comfortable, and well-prepared for visitors. This starts with ensuring your home is clean and clutter-free, especially in high-traffic areas like the living room, kitchen, and bathroom. A welcoming entryway, with a mat and a place for coats or shoes, sets a positive tone as soon as guests walk in. Comfortable seating, cozy touches like cushions and blankets, and a pleasant atmosphere through natural scents or fresh air contribute to a relaxed and welcoming environment.



In addition to aesthetics, consider your guests' practical needs. Ensure the temperature is comfortable, and the lighting is soft yet functional. Stock the bathroom with essentials like towels and toiletries, and if guests are staying overnight, provide clean bedding and extra pillows. By focusing on comfort, cleanliness, and thoughtful details, you create a space where guests feel welcomed and cared for during their visit.

HOW TO DECLUTTER YOUR HOME BEFORE GUESTS ARRIVAL

Whether you're downsizing or just trying to simplify your life, figuring out how to declutter your home is a big job. The best way to start decluttering when you're overwhelmed is to do it in stages. Make a "declutter your home checklist" to prioritize clutter areas.

Focus on one room, or even one zone within a room (e.g., kitchen cabinets), at a time, and complete each job fully before moving on to the next space. Keep reading to learn how to declutter your home room by room with these methods.

Benefits of Decluttering Your Space

There are numerous benefits to making your space as free of clutter as possible.¹

- You will have less "stuff" to clean and organize and it won't feel overwhelming.
- It will reduce the stress and anxiety a messy and crowded space may cause.
- Finding items when you need them will be easier and take less time.
- A de-cluttered space enables one to focus more and stay on task.

Decluttering your home can feel overwhelming, but breaking it down room by room makes the process manageable and even rewarding. By tackling one space at a time, you'll transform your home into a more organized, functional, and peaceful environment. Here's a detailed guide to help you declutter every room effectively:

1. Entryway

The entryway is the first impression of your home, so it should be clutter-free and welcoming.

- Evaluate the space: Identify what's cluttering your entry. Shoes, bags, mail, and coats are common culprits.
- Designate storage solutions: Install hooks for coats, a shoe rack or basket for footwear, and a tray or basket for keys and mail. If space allows, a small bench with storage can be useful.

- Limit items: Keep only the essentials, like a coat and pair of shoes for each household member, and store the rest elsewhere.
- Daily habit: Make it a habit to clear the entryway every day to prevent buildup.



2. Living Room

The living room is often a hub for family activities and should be functional yet uncluttered.

- Clear out unnecessary decor: Too many decorative items can make the space feel crowded. Keep only what you truly love or use.
- Organize entertainment items: Store DVDs, games, and remotes in a designated space like a cabinet or basket. Use hidden storage, like ottomans, to keep clutter out of sight.
- Minimize furniture: Keep only the pieces that serve a purpose. Remove unnecessary tables, chairs, or shelves that take up space.

- Sort through papers and books: Recycle or file old magazines, newspapers, and paperwork. Donate or store books you no longer need.
- Keep surfaces clear: Avoid cluttering coffee tables and side tables with knick-knacks. Keep a simple tray for essentials.

3. Kitchen

A clutter-free kitchen is essential for functionality and efficiency.

- Start with countertops: Remove everything from the countertops except for the essentials you use daily (e.g., coffee maker, toaster). Store appliances in cabinets when not in use.
- Purge cabinets and drawers: Go through each cabinet and drawer, removing duplicates, unused appliances, or expired food. Donate or recycle items you no longer need.
- Create zones: Organize your kitchen into functional zones (e.g., cooking zone, cleaning zone, food prep zone). Store items close to where they are used.
- Tackle the pantry: Sort through your pantry, discarding expired items. Organize remaining food by type, using containers or baskets to group similar items.
- Maximize storage: Use drawer organizers, shelf risers, and hooks to maximize cabinet space and keep items easily accessible.

4. Dining Room

A clutter-free dining room creates a calm, enjoyable space for meals and gatherings.

- Clear the dining table: Remove any non-essential items from the table. Keep it clear except for a simple centerpiece.
- Minimize furniture: If your dining room doubles as an office or storage space, remove any furniture that doesn't belong (like extra desks or shelving units).
- Organize storage: Use a buffet or sideboard for storing dining essentials like placemats, napkins, and dishware. Keep it organized and avoid overstuffing.

- Limit decor: Keep the room visually clean by limiting wall art, table decorations, and other decor items.

5. Bedroom

Your bedroom should be a peaceful, restful space, free from clutter.

- Start with the closet: Take everything out and assess your clothing. Donate, sell, or discard anything that doesn't fit, is damaged, or hasn't been worn in the past year.
- Organize drawers: Go through your dresser and nightstands, removing items you no longer need. Use drawer dividers to keep clothing, accessories, and other items organized.
- Tidy up surfaces: Clear off nightstands and dressers, keeping only essential items like a lamp or alarm clock.
- Under-the-bed storage: Use storage bins or bags to keep off-season clothing, shoes, or bedding neatly organized under the bed.
- Limit decor: Avoid overcrowding the room with too many pictures, decorative pillows, or furniture.

6. Bathroom

A decluttered bathroom is essential for cleanliness and ease of use.

- Empty cabinets and drawers: Take everything out and sort through your toiletries, makeup, and medicine. Discard expired items and products you no longer use.
- Organize essentials: Use drawer organizers or small baskets to group similar items together. Store daily-use items in easy-to-reach places and hide extras out of sight.
- Minimize countertop items: Keep the sink area clear by storing toothpaste, soap, and other daily items in cabinets or drawers.
- Shower and tub: Remove old or empty bottles from the shower or tub. Use a caddy to keep only the essentials.

- Towel storage: Use wall hooks or a towel bar to keep towels off the floor and organized.

7. Home Office

An organized home office promotes productivity and reduces stress.

- Clear your desk: Remove everything from your desk except for your computer, lamp, and a few essentials. File or shred papers and recycle old documents.
- Organize supplies: Store office supplies like pens, paper, and staplers in drawers or containers. Keep cords organized with cable ties or a cord organizer.
- Sort through paperwork: File important documents and toss or digitize unnecessary paperwork.
- Limit decor and distractions: Keep the space simple by limiting personal items and decor that might distract you from work.
- Maximize storage: Use filing cabinets, shelves, or storage boxes to keep everything in its place.

8. Garage

Garages often become catch-all spaces, but with some effort, they can be well-organized.

- Start with zones: Designate specific areas for tools, sports equipment, seasonal items, and storage. Label each zone to maintain organization.
- Sort and purge: Go through all items, and get rid of anything that's broken, unused, or duplicates.
- Use vertical storage: Install shelving, pegboards, and hooks to make the most of your vertical space. Store large or rarely-used items up high.
- Organize tools: Use a toolbox or pegboard to keep tools organized and easily accessible.
- Keep it tidy: Make a habit of returning items to their designated zones after each use.

9. Kid's Room or Playroom

Children's rooms can quickly become cluttered, but proper organization makes it easier to maintain.

- Declutter toys: Sort through toys, keeping only those your child uses and enjoys. Donate or store the rest.
- Organize by category: Use bins or baskets to organize toys, books, and games by type. Label each container so children know where everything belongs.
- Minimize surfaces: Clear off dressers and shelves, keeping decor simple and uncluttered.
- Rotate toys: Consider rotating toys in and out of storage to keep the room from becoming too cluttered.
- Involve the kids: Teach children to tidy up after themselves by making clean-up a daily routine.

Final Tips for Decluttering Success:

- Set manageable goals: Don't try to declutter the entire house in one day. Focus on one room at a time.
- Keep, Donate, Toss: Use three categories to sort items as you declutter – keep, donate, or toss.
- Maintain a routine: Once you've decluttered, create a habit of daily tidying to keep your home organized.
- Limit future clutter: Be mindful of what you bring into your home, and regularly review each room to keep it clutter-free.

By taking it step-by-step and working through each room, you can successfully declutter your home and create a more organized, peaceful living space.

HOW TO CREATE A WELCOMING ENTRYWAY

You have only one chance to make a first impression. So it's important that the entry to your house is welcoming to guests, reflects your personal style and makes you feel happy and comfortable as soon as you walk through the door. This space sets the tone for the rest of your home.



1. Layer in light. In this relatively small space, a beautiful lantern, table lamp and sconce create different lighting options for different moods. The Moroccan lantern, chinoiserie lamp and iron sconce each add a unique style to the space in addition to the glow.

2. Provide an artful story. In most apartments, the entry space is small, but that doesn't mean you can't make a big statement. This home is bold and chic right from the entryway. A Jackson Pollack-like wallcovering, plush stools, a statement

mirror and a geometric rug welcome guests and let them know they are entering a stylish home.

3. Get the scale right. A grand foyer with one tiny table is a sad state of affairs. In this beautiful entryway, a large console table, a bench, a mirror and sconces stand up to the large space and architectural elements such as the columns. In addition, accents like the antique crock, bin of flowers, umbrella stand and throw pillows add personality.

4. Foreshadow your home's style. Interior designer Jeannie Balsom used wood, iron and other rustic textures throughout this relaxed retreat. Using this mix at the entry sets the tone and lets visitors know exactly what they are walking into from the front door.

5. Add a rug. Sometimes the dimensions of an entry seem tricky for a rug. But the floor is a great place to add pattern, color and softness. Because an entry is a high-traffic area, pick a rug that's durable enough to stand up to heavy use.

6. Go bold. Primary colors provide an exciting entrance in this Vancouver beach house. While a basket of oars nods to nautical style, the geometric rug and bright colors are unexpected and playful.

7. Dazzle with wallpaper. This entryway to a circa-1900 house in Providence, Rhode Island, needed to respect the architecture but also to suit the homeowners' chic personal styles. The designers at Taste Design chose a bold grass cloth wallcovering with vertical lines of acanthus leaves, giving the classical ornament a modern twist. The wallcovering also suits the client's art collection and easily transitions from the foyer up the staircase.

8. Provide a place for stuff to land. A dresser, chest or console table with drawers will help you keep the entry from becoming cluttered whether you need to ditch mail, keys or gloves.

9. Provide a transition. In this entry, plants, a stone floor, outdoor furniture and rich wood provide an easy transitional zone between indoors and out.

10. Add local flavor. In this Kiawah Island, South Carolina, home, the spectacular staircase railing depicts local flora and fauna. While I usually try to avoid writing

the overused phrase “bring the outdoors in,” this is the epitome of accomplishing that in a beautiful and unique way.

SOME LIVING ROOM FURNITURE LAYOUTS THAT MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SPACE

01 How to Place Furniture in a Living Room

When arranging your living room furniture, start with the largest piece first. This is usually the sofa, or in some cases, an armchair. Orient the piece toward the room's most prominent feature, which could be a TV, fireplace, gallery wall, or window. If possible, avoid placing the sofa directly in front of a window, as this might block some of the natural light. Next, position smaller seating options, such as chairs or love seats, opposite or adjacent to the first piece. Finish by filling in with accent furniture, including ottomans, coffee tables, end tables, and lamps. Make sure each seat is within reach of at least one tabletop surface.

02 Small Living Room Layouts

Contrary to common belief, pushing all your pieces against the walls is not the best way to arrange furniture in a small living room. This creates an awkward space in the middle and highlights the room's cramped dimensions. Instead, pull furniture toward the center to create a more open feeling.

03 Flexible Living Room Furniture Arrangements

Grant yourself the flexibility to switch your living room furniture arrangement to match the occasion. Fill an empty corner with a lightweight chair that can be pulled easily into the sitting area if needed. Add in pieces like ottomans or stools that can function as side tables for drinks or serve as seating for guests.

04 How to Arrange Furniture on a Rug

Use a large area rug to unify a seating group within a larger space. As a general rule, all key pieces of furniture should fit on top of the rug. If the rug isn't big enough to contain all of the furniture, at least ensure the front legs of each piece are on the rug.

05 Large Living Room Layout Ideas

Strategic furniture arranging can make particularly long or large living rooms feel cozy and intimate. Bring a comfortable sense of scale to the room by dividing it into two conversation groupings with a path between them. Placing one sofa with its back to this path underscores the separation between the two areas.

06 Arrange Living Room Furniture for Conversation

If your living room is frequently used for chats with family and friends, choose a furniture layout that facilitates conversation. Pull the seating pieces close to the middle of the room and position them so that they face each other. Place a coffee table in the middle to keep drinks within easy reach for both sides.

07 Furniture Arrangement for Lounging

In living rooms where lounging and TV-watching are the main activities, a sectional sofa offers flexible, comfortable seating. Sectionals come in a variety of configurations, including ones that feature armless chairs, love seats, ottomans, and chaises that you can combine to fit your space. The sofa in this living room helps divide the larger space while offering cozy seating for several people.

08 How to Place Furniture in a Living Room

Planning the ideal furniture arrangement requires careful consideration of the room. As you position the pieces, pay attention to how traffic flows through the room and where the focal point is. Learn more about how to arrange living room furniture in this video.

09 Symmetrical Living Room Layouts

Symmetry imposes a sense of order in living rooms. To achieve an attractive balance, try arranging identical sofas or chairs opposite each other. If your furniture pieces aren't an exact match, you can still achieve a symmetrical look by arranging pieces with the same proportions on both sides of the room.

10 Focus on the View

An effective living room arrangement starts with a focal point, which serves as the cornerstone of your design. Typically, a fireplace plays this role, as in this colorful

living space. Orient the main seating piece toward the focal point and arrange the secondary seating pieces around the main piece. In the summer, the room could be rearranged so the view out the French doors takes center stage.



ESSENTIALS YOU NEED FOR THE ULTIMATE GUEST ROOM

The Essentials

Basket of Basics

Offer a neat grouping of new toothbrushes, travel-size toiletries (including toothpaste and saline solution), and "just-in-case" meds, so guests instantly feel cared for.

Hand Sanitizer and Disinfecting Wipes

Leaving out a few extra cleaning supplies may help your guests feel more comfortable and in control of their space.

Vacant Drawers

It's off-putting for visitors to find the guest room closet and dresser bursting with your overflow clothing. Leave at least two free drawers (set ajar so it's clear that they're for guest use), ample hanging space, and a half-dozen hangers to stow belongings.

Air Freshener

Keep a room deodorizer on hand to combat mustiness or cover up a bad smell (quick). Or consider a natural-oil diffuser with a subtle scent, like lavender or eucalyptus.

A Cozy Rug

A plush covering (on a wood floor or on top of a carpet) softens the space and makes the room feel cozy. Choose a durable, stain-resistant material, like wool.

Electric Fan

If you have a ceiling fan to keep the space from getting stuffy, great. If not, pick up an electric table fan. Before guests arrive, make sure it works and clean the blades.

Carafe of Water and a Glass

Keep the vessel freshly filled to prevent guests from having to hunt, opening and closing cupboards, when middle-of-the-night thirst strikes.

Spare Key

Without one, guests are less comfortable coming and going as they please. Leave the key on a tray on the nightstand, along with a note detailing any tricky locks or alarms.

Covered Waste Can

It's inevitable that guests will accumulate trash. A covered can lets them toss litter without having to look at it. Instead of a version with a lift-off lid, choose a step can—it's easier and more sanitary.

Luggage Rack

Their suitcases have been dragged through a plane or a train or stuffed in a car trunk. Do you really want them opened on top of the duvet? A rack is more convenient.

Extra Toilet Paper (and a Plunger)

Place these in an obvious place in the bathroom.... because no visitor wants to ask!

Clean Towels

Leaving a stack of fluffy towels on the bed or in the bathroom signals to your guests that they're free to use the shower, without having to ask. Bonus points: If your shower is particularly difficult to operate, consider leaving out some brief instructions.

HOW TO PREPARE A GUEST BEDROOM – 6 STEPS TO ENSURE THE PERFECT NIGHT'S SLEEP

Creating a comfortable guest bedroom involves more than just a clean space. Follow these six steps to make sure your guests enjoy a restful and cozy stay:

1. Provide Clean, Comfortable Bedding

- Fresh Linens: Use freshly washed sheets, pillowcases, and a clean duvet or blanket. Opt for breathable, soft fabrics like cotton or linen for extra comfort.
- Layered Bedding: Offer a variety of bedding options by layering light and heavy blankets, so guests can adjust to their preference.
- Plush Pillows: Provide a selection of pillows—firm and soft—to cater to different sleeping styles.

2. Offer Storage Space

- Closet Space: Clear out part of the closet or dresser for guests to unpack and store their belongings. Provide hangers for easy access.
- Luggage Rack: If possible, include a luggage rack or a small bench where guests can place their suitcases without cluttering the floor.



3. Set the Right Temperature

- Comfortable Room Temperature: Make sure the room is neither too hot nor too cold. Provide extra blankets and an accessible fan or heater so guests can adjust the temperature as needed.
- Proper Ventilation: Open windows for fresh air or make sure the air conditioning/heating system is functional before guests arrive.

4. Create a Relaxing Atmosphere

- Lighting: Place bedside lamps for soft, adjustable lighting, allowing guests to read or relax without harsh overhead lighting.

- Curtains or Blinds: Install blackout curtains or blinds to block out early morning light and ensure a restful sleep.

- Personal Touches: Add a few thoughtful touches like fresh flowers, a good book, or a candle to make the room feel more welcoming.

5. Stock Essentials and Extras

- Fresh Towels and Toiletries: Provide clean towels and a selection of basic toiletries (e.g., shampoo, soap, toothpaste) in case guests forget their own.

- Water and Snacks: Place a bottle of water and some light snacks, like a fruit bowl or crackers, on a nightstand so guests don't have to venture out at night.

6. Ensure Easy Accessibility

- Wi-Fi Details: Provide your Wi-Fi password in an easy-to-spot location so guests can connect right away.

- Charging Stations: Make sure there are accessible outlets or a charging station for guests to charge their phones or devices.

By following these steps, you'll create a welcoming and comfortable guest bedroom that ensures your visitors have everything they need for a perfect night's sleep!

NATURAL RECIPES FOR A FRESH SMELLING HOME

According to a survey, 16.4 % of people in Australia who were exposed to air fresheners experienced several health problems. These health issues included skin problems, respiratory illnesses, mucosal issues, gastrointestinal and cardiovascular problems. This is because air fresheners are highly volatile substances that release chemicals in your home to make it smell good. Instead of using these harmful air fresheners, you can make your own scents using natural ingredients for a fresh smelling home. You can also prevent foul smells by removing the source or by properly cleaning that area and ventilating your home. It is a good idea also to get a professional cleaning done by end of lease cleaning Hobart services every two to three months to eliminate odour-causing bacteria from your home. Here are some

helpful tips below on how to make your home smell fresh without using harmful chemicals. But first, you must see what air fresheners contain and why they harm your health.



Why Are Air Fresheners Bad For Your Home

Air fresheners are fragrant sprays that mask or remove a smell from your home. These air fresheners include sprays, diffusers, candles, plug-ins, and more. However, these air fresheners contain toxic chemicals that release volatile organic compounds such as xylenes and benzene in your home and ruin indoor air quality. These volatile organic compounds can cause harm both on their own and by reacting with the components in your air, like ozone, to create toxic air pollutants like formaldehyde. There are many harmful effects of these volatile organic compounds on your health, including:

- Migraines
- Asthma
- Respiratory problem

- Neurological problems
- Dermatitis
- Irritation of the eyes and nose

Therefore, it is better to steer clear of these air fresheners and use the natural tips given below to keep your home smelling fresh and clean:

1. Keep Your Windows Open To Let Fresh Air In

One of the best ways to get rid of dampness, musty and cooking smells is to open your windows every morning to allow cross ventilation. This will let fresh air and sunlight into your home and help improve your mood at the beginning of the day. Keep your windows open for as long as possible, especially after cleaning your home or cooking your meals.

2. Wash Your Bedding And Sheets Regularly

You must also wash your bedding and sheets regularly as these fabrics absorb dead skin cells, body oils and dirt every night. You can get rid of the musty smells in these fabrics using the following steps:

- Pour 1 cup of white vinegar into your washing machine and run a cycle.
- Next, add ½ cup of baking soda into your drum and run the machine with your normal laundry detergent.
- The acetic acid in the vinegar will clean and remove any stains, and the alkaline baking soda will deodorise your sheets and bedding to remove musty smells.

You can also use vinegar around your house in the following ways to keep it clean and sanitised.

3. Deodorise Your Carpet To Remove Foul Smells

Household dust mites, dead skin cells, bacteria, food scraps, pollutants and soil can get embedded in your carpet and emit foul smells. You must vacuum and clean your carpets regularly and have end-of-lease cleaners in Hobart steam clean your carpets every month to remove these embedded pollutants. You can also remove foul smells from your carpet by using this natural deodoriser:

- Mix ½ cup cornstarch with one cup of baking soda in a glass bowl.
- Next, add five drops of your favourite essential oil to the bowl.
- Stir the mixture and then pour it into a mason glass jar.
- Poke holes in the top of the jar and then put the lid on.
- Next, sprinkle this on your carpets and leave it for 30 minutes.
- After this, vacuum your carpets and watch smells disappear.

4. Give Your Home A Citrusy Smell Using Orange Peels

If you like your home to have a slight fragrance or want to make it smell good before your guests arrive, end-of-lease cleaners in Hobart recommend boiling orange peels in the following steps:

- Cut an orange into small slices and place it in a pan of water.
- Next, add small cloves and cinnamon sticks to the pan.
- Let this water boil and then turn it to medium and leave it for a while.
- The fragrance will slowly spread around your home and give it a fresh smell.

Besides this, you can also use these tips to make your home smell good before any guests arrive.

5. Freshen Up Your Drawers With Baking Soda

Add one to two cups of baking soda to coffee filters if your drawers and shelves have a peculiar musty smell. Next, add one to two drops of lemon essential oil and wrap this filter with a ribbon. Now, place these baking soda filters on your shelves and drawers to deodorise these spaces and make them smell good.

6. Make Your Own DIY Room Freshener

Lastly, you can always make your home smell good by making your own room freshener with natural ingredients. To make this room freshener, end-of-lease cleaning services in Hobart recommend you should do the following:

- Add a cup of distilled water to a spray bottle.
- Next, add three tablespoons of unflavoured vodka or rubbing alcohol to this bottle.
- Then pour in 20 drops of a relaxing essential oil like lavender or chamomile.

- Mix these ingredients and spray this freshener around your home.

Here are some deep cleaning hacks that will also help keep your home smelling fresh and clean.

Thus, you must clean and maintain your home properly to keep musty and foul bacteria away. You can also use the above steps to make your own deodorisers and room fresheners and ditch those toxic store-bought air fresheners. Lastly, you must get a deep cleaning done by expert end-of-lease cleaners Hobart every month to keep your home free of mould smells and toxic air pollutants.



CONCLUSION

Making your home guest-friendly involves more than just cleaning up—it's about creating a warm, comfortable, and welcoming atmosphere that makes visitors feel at ease. By focusing on key areas like decluttering, offering comfortable seating, and providing thoughtful touches like fresh towels, cozy blankets, and pleasant

scents, you can ensure that your space is ready for guests at any time. A welcoming entryway, clean bathrooms, and organized bedrooms contribute significantly to the overall guest experience.



Beyond comfort, considering the practical needs of your guests is equally important. Offering essentials like toiletries, Wi-Fi access, and a comfortable sleeping arrangement shows attention to detail and care. By blending cleanliness, comfort, and a personal touch, you create an environment where guests feel valued and can truly relax during their stay.

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