

How To Prepare Your Home For The Festive Season



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2. Declutter Your Home Room-by-Room



How to Declutter Your Space, Room by Room

The Bathroom

Medicine cabinet: Take everything out, and discard outdated medications, makeup, and skincare products. Put everything you're keeping immediately back into the cabinet, storing the items you use most often at eye level.

Cabinet drawers: Remove everything, and quickly evaluate what you're keeping and tossing. Put the items you're keeping back into their drawers, with the items you use most often in the top drawers.

Shower, tub, and bathroom sink: Pull everything out from these areas and declutter the items there.

Lastly, everything that did not have a home can be quickly sorted into the bins you have staged for the purpose.

The Bedroom

First, make your bed. It's hard to feel any progress decluttering a bedroom while an unmade bed stares you in the face.

Nightstands: Remove anything on them that doesn't belong there, and add it to your put-away bin. This may include books you've already finished reading, pens, paper, and mail. Throw out or recycle anything you no longer use, such as empty tissue boxes, pens that have gone dry, or chargers that no longer work.

Tops of your dressers, chests, and bureaus: Pay careful attention to any strewn clothing. Anything that needs folding or hanging goes into the put-away bin. If you're afraid it may wrinkle further, you can lay clothes on your bed.

Drawers: Take everything out. Pull out anything no longer worn, and put it in your donation bin. Fold and store the clothing you're keeping.

Desk or vanity table: Resist the urge to shove things back into drawers; instead, put them in your put-away bin. Toss garbage or recycle anything you haven't used in six months.

Return items to their proper places. Fold, hang, and store any clothing. If you're now eyeing your closet, we'll tackle that next.

Closet and Clothing



OK, deep breath. It's time to declutter your closet. The easiest way to tackle a closet is to declutter your clothing by type. It's much easier to decide whether to toss or keep a pair of jeans if you're looking at your entire jeans collection at once. So start pulling out different types of clothing, and choose what you'll toss and keep.

Once you've gone through each type of clothing, you will have four piles to deal with:

Organize: Put away anything that was in the wrong spot for example, if you had a pair of socks in your closet, put them in your dresser.

Launder: Put dirty laundry into the hamper, or bring it to the laundry room.

Repair: Anything that needs to be repaired from holes, tears, or missing buttons should go to the tailor or dry cleaner.

Donate: To eliminate clothes, take them to a donation center or consignment store.

The Entryway, Mudroom, and Foyer

You may not have a traditional mudroom or foyer, but you likely have an entryway. No matter its size, the best way to make an entryway most functional is to declutter it regularly.

Desk, console, or side tables: Go through each drawer, remove the contents, and decide to toss or keep each item. Go over the tops of each desk or console as well. Do you have a space for your keys and other important items? Make sure everything is accessible and not too crowded. This makes it easier to leave the house in Sydney each morning with what you need.

Hall closet: Declutter it like any other closet: Start with shoes, boots, and jackets, followed by accessories.

The entry is another area that picks up a lot of clutter from other rooms. Spend time putting away things from other rooms that have made their way to the entry.

The Kitchen

Keeping your kitchen clutter-free can be challenging because different activities occur there—cooking, eating, and socializing, especially if your kitchen is on the smaller side. As a result, the kitchen has numerous types of items stored in it.

Pantry, cabinets, and drawers: The first step is to empty each space, assess each item, and put everything back where it belongs. Start with your powerhouse storage spaces, such as the pantry and upper cabinets. Then move onto the lower cabinets, drawers, and the space under the kitchen sink.

The Living Room

The living room is one of the hardest rooms in your home to keep neat daily in Sydney. That's because it gets a lot of use, and living rooms don't usually offer many storage features. You may have some bookcases and a TV console, but they don't hide much. The key is to:

Decide on permanent storage spaces for commonly used items, such as remote controls, magazines, and books.

Declutter this space regularly.

Large furniture: Start with bookcases, consoles, and side tables. Then move on to your coffee table and entertainment center. Empty them, assess the items they store, and then return them to their proper storage spaces. Put books away, reduce paper clutter, or return remote controls to their proper place.

Electronics: Remove everything not connected to your television or home theater system. Are you using it? Does it work? Store items such as chargers and gaming equipment where you use them.

Toys: Assess every toy for wear and tear. Does it still function? Do your kids still play with it? Recycle or store each toy.

Grab your put-away bin, and return everything that belongs in another room to its proper storage space.

Where to Dispose of Clutter

For the items you aren't keeping when you declutter your home in Sydney, you have some options for disposing of them.

Donate: Giving clothes and gently used items to charities and local goodwill organizations is a great way to help others in need while removing your own clutter. If you plan to give away certain items to friends and family, start bins for each person.

Sell: Besides a donation bin, you also might want to start a collection of items to sell in a garage sale or online in respected marketplaces.

Recycle: Know your local recycling guidelines, because items such as electronics often can't go in regular recycling. Keep a separate bin for those items to bring them to an appropriate recycling center.

Trash: If you know you're undertaking a major decluttering project, you might want to rent a dumpster in advance for unusable or extra large items that must be thrown away.

3. Holiday Cleaning Checklist to Get Ready for Guests

Our room-by-room cleaning checklist guides you through everything you need to tidy up before hosting a holiday gathering with friends or family.

Holiday hosting involves a lot of prep work. Once you've decked the halls and completed a grocery list for your favorite holiday dishes, there are still a few important tasks to check off your list.



Before guests arrive, you need to clean your home to get it company-ready. Although you don't have to deep-clean your home from top to bottom, you should tidy up the spaces you know guests will frequent. That includes the entryway, main living areas, kitchen, and any bathroom visitors will use.

The most important thing is to make sure these areas appear clean and clutter-free; you don't need to go overboard scrubbing and organizing every inch of space. A little strategic holiday cleaning and decluttering will go a long way. You can spend less time with a vacuum and scrub brush and more time enjoying the company of those you love.

To help you sort through which tasks are worth your limited time and attention during this busy season, we have a holiday cleaning checklist that guides you through each room of your home in Sydney. Refer to this list to prioritize cleaning duties and finish the job as quickly as possible. Although it's particularly helpful around the holidays, this house cleaning checklist in Sydney can also come in handy anytime you're hosting guests.

Holiday Cleaning Checklist for Your Entryway

An entryway offers the first impression of your home as guests arrive. So, in addition to decking the space with holiday decor, take the time to clean and organize your entryway

before gatherings. Follow this holiday cleaning checklist and give visitors a warm (and tidy) welcome.

- Pick up clutter near the door
- Designate a spot for guests' coats, boots, and shoes
- Wipe down walls to remove scuffs and marks
- Use glass cleaner to remove fingerprints from windows and doors
- Shovel the front walk, if necessary

Holiday Cleaning Checklist for Living Areas

Holiday gatherings typically center around main living areas, such as dining and living rooms. Determine which rooms guests are likely to congregate in and focus your holiday cleaning efforts there. Then, ensure these spaces look their best with a quick once-over before the doorbell rings.

- Vacuum or sweep and mop floors
- Spot-clean any stains on carpet or furniture
- Wipe down surfaces with a microfiber duster or damp cloth
- Put away any items that don't belong in the room
- If you're short on time, load the items into a basket and stash it somewhere until you have time to put them away.
- Fluff pillows and sofa cushions and neatly fold throw blankets

Kitchen Holiday Cleaning Tasks

If your holiday festivities include food, there's a good chance your kitchen will be on display for guests to see. To quickly clean your kitchen, focus on the problem areas that are most visibly messy. This kitchen cleaning checklist will prep your space for holiday hosting.

- Declutter and wipe down countertops
- Vacuum or sweep floors
- Clear any dirty dishes from the sink and clean the basin
- Wipe down kitchen appliances

- Replace kitchen hand towels
- Make room in the refrigerator for leftovers

Holiday Cleaning Checklist for the Bathroom



Freshen up the bathroom guests are most likely to use, which might be a first-floor powder room or a guest bathroom. If your visitors are spending the night, make sure the bathroom is also stocked with plenty of supplies, including extra towels and toiletries. Follow this checklist to prep your bathroom for the holidays.

- Clean mirrors to remove streaks and water spots
- Clear clutter and personal products from the vanity
- Wipe down the sink and countertops
- Put out fresh hand towels
- Sweep or mop the floor
- Give the toilet a quick scrub with a toilet brush
- Refill the soap dispenser and set out extra toiletries

If you've finished these holiday cleaning tasks and still have some time, set the mood by lighting a candle, putting on some music, and programming the thermostat to a comfortable temperature. These extra touches will help set a festive tone and make you feel more comfortable knowing your home is clean and ready for the event in Sydney.

3.1.Clean Walls Like Professionals



Dirt and dust buildup, scuff marks, stubborn stains, cobwebs, and mould infestation on the walls can affect indoor air quality and lead to serious health hazards. Unfortunately, abrasive scrubbing or harsh chemicals can wear out the paint or cause serious damage to the walls. This can also ruin the overall look and feel of your house.

If you want to keep your living space looking beautiful and spotless, regularly clean your finished and unfinished walls using tried and tested strategies. It is good to act on spills and splatters immediately and always test the product on a hidden area before applying it on a visible part to achieve the desired results.

Here is a complete guide on cleaning walls like professionals. Follow these tips to tackle visible dirt, stains, spills and splatters from the surface and pass your rental inspection.

1. Stock up On Necessary Cleaning Supplies

You need tools and products like professionals to clean filthy walls- including ceilings and corners. Instead of using harmful cleaning products that contain Volatile Organic

Compounds, ensure you stock up on natural cleaning products that are environmentally safe and super-affordable. All you need:

- White vinegar
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Baking Soda
- Telescopic Microfiber duster and cloths
- Rubbing alcohol
- Liquid Dishwashing Soap
- Magic erasers
- Sponges

2. Remove Dust From Walls

Professionals also start from the ceiling walls when carrying out a cheap end of lease cleaning Sydney. So, cover your furniture and other items and dust your walls from top-to-bottom. You can use a telescopic microfiber duster to reach the ceilings, nooks and crannies. It will help you fetch cobwebs and inspect marks easily.

Wipe down the ceilings and mouldings using dry microfiber cloths, working your way towards the skirting boards. Use a vacuum cleaner with a brush attachment to remove dust and ensure healthy indoor air quality.

3. Be Gentle on Eggshell and Satin Finishes

Flat, eggshell and satin are the most delicate wall paint finishes. They are prone to abrasive cleaning tools and harsh chemicals. So, be careful when sprucing up the wall finishes. Remove stains and smudges using mild dish soap and warm water.

Dampen a soft sponge in the solution and gently remove the stains and grime. Remember that a wet sponge can drip down the wall, leaving streaks behind if not tackled immediately. So squeeze out a damp sponge to remove excess water and clean your walls. Professionals do the same and deliver spotless walls for a hassle-free rental inspection.

4. Use Diluted White Vinegar to Clean Gloss Finishes

End of lease cleaning Sydney experts believe that glossy and semi-glossy wall paint finishes can withstand mildly strong cleaning agent. So, it is good to prepare a homemade cleaning product using white vinegar, warm water and a few drops of dishwashing soap.

Mix it in a spray bottle and apply it on the affected area, including mould stains, grease, grime and gunk. Now, gently wipe down using a wet sponge or a microfiber cloth. Let it dry completely.

5. Baking Soda is Perfect for Oil-Based Paint Finish

Never use white vinegar or other acidic cleaning agents on walls with oil-based paint. The acetic acid in vinegar can damage or discolour the finish. If you want to achieve pro-like results, use baking soda, dish soap, and a warm water solution.

This natural cleaning agent easily removes greasy and grimy stains from walls. Dip a sponge in the solution and gently scrub your walls. Make sure you wipe off the baking soda residue with a clean cloth to prevent unpleasant streaks.

However, always remember that professional cleaning can boost the property value. So, hire experts if you are selling your house in Sydney or preparing for a move-out.

6. Use a DIY Cleaning Agent for Latex Wall Finish



To clean walls with a latex finish, you can use white vinegar or hydrogen peroxide solution. Dip a sponge in the cleaner, wring out excess solution, and gently clean your walls. Gently scrub in a circular motion to remove crayons and grease stains easily.

7. Remove Mould From Walls Using Hydrogen Peroxide

Hydrogen Peroxide is one of the most powerful cleaning products. It can easily remove mould stains and grime from finished and unfinished walls. Use 3 percent hydrogen peroxide and spray the solution on the affected area.

Use a sponge or a soft-bristled brush to remove the stains. Make sure you keep the windows and doors open for ensure proper home ventilation in Sydney. Rinse, wipe and dry the walls to prevent further infestation.

8. Use Magic Erasers with Caution

Of course, magic erasers are perfect for cleaning walls, but they should be used carefully to prevent scratches and serious damage. This particular tool can remove paint finish or leave scuff marks, especially on flat and matte walls. It is always good to pre-treat the stains with soapy water and wet your magic eraser.

Gently move your hand in a circular motion to remove the crayons, grease, and other stubborn stains. Wipe the cleaned surface with a damp cloth to achieve sparkling results.

9. Clean Wallpapered Walls With Rubbing Alcohol

Wallpaper can easily accumulate dust and grime, which can affect indoor air quality. So, it is good to remove dust before tackling smudges and grime. Instead of using vinegar or baking soda, you can spray rubbing alcohol to remove stains.

You can also dab a soft cloth in cornstarch and cold water to sparkle clean the wallpapered wall. This can kill lethal germs and bacteria on the surface as well.

10. Clean Wooden Walls using Vinegar and Essential Oils

Professionally-trained end of lease cleaning Sydney experts often clean wooden walls using the combination of vinegar and mineral oil. You can also add a few drops of lemon oil to cut grease and grime.

Dampen the cloth with ½ cup of mineral oil and ¼ cup vinegar solution. Squeeze out excess water and wipe down the walls. This will leave the surface shiny and impress your fussy landlord at the end of your tenancy.

4. Get Your Guest Room Holiday-Ready

This is the first home where we've had a "real" guest room (our last place only had enough space for a twin size bed). It makes us so happy to be able to host friends and family, and

we've had a lot of people stay with us over the past year and a half. With the holidays and a few more visitors coming up, I decided it was time to tackle the last few lingering projects on my guest room to-do list. Plus, I gave it some festive styling and warm winter layers, to make it extra cozy! Since I just went through the process, I thought it would be a good time to share some tips for getting your guest room ready for hosting. Is anyone coming to stay with you over the holidays?

1. A good window treatment. The first item on my list was to replace the old window treatment! I was excited to remove the basic, utilitarian blinds and install a beautiful fabric Classic Roman shade from Bali Blinds. We have these in almost every room of the house now, and I recommend them so much. I love the way they look, and the cordless lift is so easy to use (plus, safe for kids). Besides style, Roman shades have a functional advantage over blinds: they're better at heat retention. That will help to keep this room warm and comfortable over the winter, and maybe even save us a little on our energy bills!

2. Wifi sign. I always forget to ask for the wifi password at friends' houses and end up using data, whoops. A framed sign with all the info makes it easy for guests to connect to your internet...and it makes it so you don't have to remember the password and repeat it over and over. ;) There are lots of cute printables online, but my printer was out of ink so I just hand-wrote mine. Hey, it doesn't have to be fancy!

3. Layers of cozy blankets. I want winter guests to be comfortable and warm at night, but I don't want to crank the heat up too high. So I let guests control their own temperature by providing a variety of different blankets. On this bed, I layered an amazingly soft faux fur blanket over a lightweight cotton quilt, and stacked some extra blankets and throws in the closet just in case. Sheets are also an easy thing to change seasonally. I know some people love flannel sheets for winter, but I personally don't like the feel of them. So I use good cotton sheets year-round, just in different colors and patterns (these ones are eco-friendly, super soft, and luxurious--yet still under \$50!).

4. Some greenery. Another easy, inexpensive way to make your guest room feel instantly festive, is to add some fresh (or faux) greenery. A wreath over the bed, a garland around the window, some clippings on the nightstand...maybe all of the above. Bonus: they'll make the room smell super good.

5. Seasonal art. This is not a necessary step by any means, but if your art is rather summery (like the beach print we had in here before), consider switching it out for a winter scene in the same size. I totally copied Suzannah from Create/Enjoy on this. The print is a free download from Unsplash (by photographer Dan Otis), and I had it printed at Parabo Press. The do color engineer prints that are highly affordable, especially compared to other large scale art. I just love this foggy PNW scene!

6. Basket of essentials. I tend to forget something small on nearly every trip--typically toothpaste or a razor, since I wait to pack my last-minute toiletries until the morning of our travel. If you want to be a super awesome host, stock a basket with those kind of items, that aren't terribly expensive to provide and might save your guests a late-night trip to the store. A new toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, a blowdryer, shampoo, conditioner, bodywash, lotion and a disposable razor...that kind of thing. Think of what toiletries a nice hotel would usually have. I keep our basket of essentials in the vanity of our guest bathroom.

7. Good pillows. We recently upgraded to the iSense adjustable pillows, and I'm really impressed. The main thing I love about this pillow is, it's height-adjustable to give you exaaactly the right fit for your body and how you sleep. You adjust the loft by adding or removing the precision cut pieces of memory foam (which is what the pillow is filled with, instead of batting or feathers). What's more, the pillow adapts to provide responsive support as you change sleep positions throughout the night. It's honestly so comfy, and can improve your quality of sleep--the SMART pillow has the technology to prove it! It tracks heart rate, respiratory rate, sleep cycles, and restlessness to give you an overall sleep score (and tailored suggestions to improve your sleep). We are so happy with ours, and wanted our guests to get great sleep here too.

8. Closet space. If you're like me, your guest room closet might be crammed full of storage right now. Ours contained vacuum cleaners, games, craft supplies, off-season clothes, and our own luggage. I cleared most of those out to provide storage space for our guests. I left the vacuum cleaners for now, but when we actually have guests staying with us I will take those out too, so we don't have to intrude on their privacy every time we need to vacuum. A luggage rack is also a nice thing to provide, if you don't want people setting their suitcases on your bedding.

9. Reading material - For quiet downtimes, like if they wake up earlier than you, a stack of magazines and interesting books might be appreciated. Think coffee table books that are easy to flip through, or quick reads that can be finished within the time they're staying. Another cute idea? Grab some local guidebooks and maps, so you can feel like you're running a little boutique hotel. :)

10. Disposable waterbottle and a few snacks. This is also not necessary by any means, but it's an extra step that will make your guests feel special. Provide a waterbottle and some treats on the bedside table--bonus points if they're from local companies (I love Washington-made Almond Roca). The waterbottle is especially nice if your guest room doesn't have an attached bathroom, since no one wants to tiptoe into the kitchen in their pajamas, late at night, in someone else's house in Sydney. And the snacks are a friendly way to say, it's ok to eat in here (unless, of course, you don't want them to--then nix the snacks).

5. Easy Holiday Decorating Ideas



Between buying presents and cooking the big meal, who has days to devote to decorating their home for the holidays in Sydney? But not decorating can earn you a reputation as a Scrooge. The happy medium? Deck the halls with these easy holiday decorating ideas that take less than 5 minutes (seriously!) to set up.

Tiny touches—like hanging ornaments from the stair railings and adding a festive scent with cinnamon sticks—are all you need to decorate your home for the holidays. Here are our favorite under-5-minute ways to decorate for Christmas.

Fun-Up Your Frames

Garland isn't just for the mantle! Deema Tabbara Lopez of the blog, *Pretty on Fridays*, took smaller strings and placed them around her framed artwork to create subtle moments of festive sophistication.

Add Some Tiny Trees

You don't need a 9-foot tall tree to get into the Christmas spirit. Tiny trees feel just as festive! Here, Mallory Fletchall of *Reserve Home* decked the top of her radiator with two tiny trees, stacking one of them on books to vary the heights. There are tons of other awesome alternative Christmas Tree ideas out there too.

Initial It

Put your stamp on a wreath by hanging your surname's initial in the center. This zinc version glitters in the light.

Create a Makeshift Mantel

No fireplace? No problem. Let some open shelving stand in for a mantel, as the Emily Henderson Design team did here. Arrange decorative accents—think miniature trees, string lights, snow globes, or flameless candles—and then hang the stockings from the bookshelves with care.

Wrap the Cabinets

Kelly and Jeff Mindell of Studio DIY have a fun and festive tradition where they "tie" their cabinets in Christmas ribbon each year. Realistically, the ribbons are taped to the inside of the cabinet doors so you can still, you know, open them, but what an easy way to fill your kitchen with cheer.

Edit Your Pictures

When in doubt, put a hat on it! Studio DIY came up with this funny idea to add tiny Santa hats onto the people in the paintings, prints, and photos in their gallery wall. It's a small touch but a fun family tradition you can do year after year.

Deck the Doorways



Adorn a main doorway in your home with light-up stars in Sydney, snowflakes, or bulb string lights. This sophisticated idea adds a charming glow to your home and is subtle enough to keep up after the holiday.

Beautify a Bar Cart

Decorate your bar cart with seasonal touches, like metallic accents and a vase of winter flowers or foliage. Even a grocery store bouquet works! Leave out glasses and all the essentials for basic cocktails so guests can help themselves—and you don't have to play bartender.

Set a Pretty Table

Turn old holiday cards into place cards. Cut them into star shapes and add tissue paper cutouts to match; punch a hole, tie with a ribbon, and label accordingly.

Dress the Windows

There's more to holiday decorating than just the tree and the mantel: Consider window ledges and empty bookshelves, too. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Place pine boughs in a large vase and hang a handful of ornaments on them.

Fill old jars with pistachio nuts, winterberries, or red peppercorns and nestle a tealight on top.

Go for a seashore motif, assembling an array of starfish draped with a length of plain red string.

Just Log On

Here's one roaring fire that isn't a huge bother to get started. Simply search "Fireplace for Your Home" on Netflix to watch an old-fashioned fireplace that also happens to play classic holiday tunes.

Lend a Hand

Pin mittens—either stray ones or pairs your kids have outgrown—to lengths of yarn and display them along a mantel or a bookshelf. You can also hang kids' striped wool socks or knit hats.

Hang Bundles of Joy

Try hanging something unexpected on the tree, like a bunch of fragrant cinnamon sticks. You can also leave fresh cinnamon sticks out in a bowl as a simple DIY take on traditional potpourri.

Take a Bow

Finally, a use for those colorful store-bought bows you've saved every year, and a project the kids can do. Take a plain paper plate, cut out the center, and stick bows all over it to create a sweet wreath.

Step It Up

Even if you're not decorating a full tree this year, you can still display some prized ornaments. Hang your most eye-catching ornaments from beautiful ribbons throughout your home in Sydney, including on the staircase.

6. Organise Your Home Before Holiday Guests Come Over



If getting ready for the holidays also means getting your home ready for guests, it's time to start preparing. Not sure where to start? Depending on how much time you have, you can take on different projects in each room of your home to help spruce up your space. Whether you have one day or just a few minutes, here are doable cleaning projects to get every room in your house looking merry and bright.

If You Have A Whole Day Before Guests Arrive...

Bedroom: Start by stripping the beds and washing all of the bedding. This includes comforters, pillows and the mattress pad or protector. Be sure to use hot water and dry the pieces on high heat. Vacuum the entire mattress with the upholstery attachment on your vacuum—it's the one that has the lint catching fabric strip on the sides. Sprinkle baking soda on the mattress and let it sit for several hours before vacuuming up. Then make the bed with clean bedding.

Kitchen: If you have a hand steamer for your clothes, use it in the kitchen to degrease your cabinets, stovetop and any other greasy surface before you deep clean.

Bathroom: Get your bathroom grout sparkling with a toilet bowl cleaner that contains bleach. Just squeeze the cleaner along the grout lines and let it sit for 15 minutes. Then, using a bristle brush, scrub the area to reveal shiny, clean grout. This can be done on floors, backsplashes and inside the shower.

Living Room: Break out the rubber squeegee and run it all over your carpet and furniture to remove stubborn pet hair. Follow up by vacuuming and you'll be shocked at how much hair and debris you'll remove.

If You Have 10 Hours Before Guests Arrive...

Bedroom: Use a lint roller to dust soft surfaces like lampshades, upholstered chairs and headboards, and to remove pet hair from your comforter.

Kitchen: Use dishwasher tablets to clean your oven. This hack works great and you won't be overwhelmed with the harsh chemical smells, but wear gloves since the tablets contain bleach. Start by unwrapping the tablet, dip it in warm water, and start scrubbing the inside of your oven. Finish by wiping down the oven with a towel.

Bathroom: Fill a bowl with vinegar and drop in several paper towels. Once the towels are completely soaked, wrap them around the faucets and any area that has buildup and hard water stains. Let the towels sit for an hour before gently scrubbing away all of the stains.

Living Room: If you don't have time to scrub carpets or rugs, you can still remove stains quickly by making a solution of 1/4 cup white vinegar and 3/4 cup water. Spray the solution over the stains and cover with a clean towel. Then use a hot iron on the highest steam setting for 30 seconds. When you remove the towel, the stain should be gone.

If You Have 6 Hours Before Guests Arrive...

Bedroom: Break out the vacuum and use the attachments to get the dust from hard-to-reach places like ceiling fans, behind the bed, blinds and window treatments, and behind furniture.

Kitchen: Give your light fixtures a quick cleaning by placing the removable glass pieces in the top rack of your dishwasher. Let the dry heat cycle run to prevent spots on the glass.

Bathroom: Give your shower a deep clean by adding one part dish soap to one part white vinegar into a dish-wand. Run the hot water in the shower, and then use the wand to scrub all the surfaces. The vinegar and dish soap mixture cuts through the soap scum leaving your shower looking sparkly clean.

Living Room: Using a clean mop and a mixture of hot water, a teaspoon of laundry detergent and a cap of fabric softener, you can quickly clean your walls. Run the mop over your walls, baseboards and other surfaces to clean and leave the room smelling amazing.

If You Have 4 Hours Before Guests Arrive...



Bedroom: If you are laundering your comforters, place a few clean tennis balls in the dryer to speed up the process and to make sure all of the filling doesn't get stuck in the corners.

Kitchen: Make cleaning the microwave a breeze by placing white vinegar in a bowl along with sliced lemon. Turn the microwave on for a few minutes and keep the door shut for a few additional minutes. Then use a sponge to easily wipe away the mess inside the microwave.

Bathroom: Sprinkle baking soda all over the tub and shower and pour vinegar into the toilet. Let both sit for a half-hour before scrubbing. Both will get rid of stubborn stains and smells.

Living Room: To quickly clean blinds in your living room, create a solution of equal parts water and white vinegar. Grab a clean sock, put it on your hand, and dunk into the solution. Run the sock over the blinds to break up the grease and dirt.

If You Have 2 Hours Before Guests Arrive...

Bedroom: Place dryer sheets in the closets, inside drawers and on shelves to give the room a fresh smell that isn't overwhelming.

Kitchen: Put a simmering pot on the stove to make your whole house smell amazing in Sydney. Start by filling a pot with water and add items like cinnamon sticks, cloves, citrus peels, apple peels or apple juice, nutmeg, ginger and vanilla extract. Let the pot simmer for several hours before your guests arrive.

Bathroom: Remove tough makeup stains from your counter and mirror with shaving cream. Just apply a few squirts of the shaving cream, let it sit for ten minutes and then wipe away.

Living Room: While you won't have time to paint, using a Magic Eraser or melamine sponge will quickly clean walls and baseboards.

If You Have 30 Minutes Before Guests Arrive...

Bedroom: Start at the back of the room and work your way out the door. Clear the clutter, make the bed, put away clothes and finish by dusting furniture. If there are items you can't quickly clean or organize, place them in a closet and organize once your guests leave.

Kitchen: Use a dab of olive oil or coconut oil on a rag to make your stainless steel appliances shine. Just buff and admire this quick hack.

Bathroom: Use glass cleaner on the mirrors and all of the fixtures to make them shine. Put fresh hand towels on display and put away any personal items like makeup, hair products or shower products.

Living Room: Grab an empty laundry basket and start collecting all of the items that don't belong in the living room. From toys to shoes and clothes, you can quickly declutter your living space, stash the laundry basket while your guests are visiting, and put the items away once your guests leave.

Conclusion

Preparing your home for the festive season in Sydney is more than just decorating; it's about setting the stage for meaningful moments and joyful gatherings. By focusing on cleanliness, organization, and thoughtful decor, you can create a space that feels warm, inviting, and

ready for celebration. Small touches like cozy lighting, seasonal accents, and comfortable seating can transform your home into a holiday haven, ensuring everyone feels welcomed and cherished. With these preparations, you're not only enhancing your home's appearance but also fostering a memorable and stress-free environment where lasting holiday memories can be made.

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