Step by Step Guide for Common Household Appliances

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Abstract

This guide provides clear step by step instructions for cleaning, maintaining and troubleshooting common household appliances. Whether you are looking to keep your kitchen appliances in top shape or need assistance with everyday tasks, this document covers essential appliances like ovens, refrigerators, washing machines and dishwashers. Each section offers practical tips and easy to follow directions, ensuring that even those with minimal experience can handle appliance care effectively. With a focus on safety and efficiency, this guide aims to help you extend the life of your appliances while making routine maintenance simple and stress free. Ideal for homeowners and renters alike.

Getting Started

Taking care of your household appliances goes beyond simply using them every day. To ensure they last longer and work efficiently, regular cleaning and maintenance are essential. Many homeowners and renters face issues with appliances breaking down prematurely or underperforming simply because they haven't given them the attention they need. By following a proper care routine, you can avoid costly repairs, improve energy efficiency, and extend the lifespan of your appliances.

This guide is here to walk you through every step of appliance maintenance. We'll cover everything from basic cleaning to troubleshooting common issues, and provide expert advice on how to care for different appliances in your home. Whether you're a first-time homeowner or simply looking to learn better ways to maintain your current appliances, this guide will give you the knowledge and confidence to keep your home running smoothly.

How do you properly set up and use a washing machine for the first time?

Washing machines are incredibly convenient and easy-to-use household appliances, but can take a bit of getting used to. If you've just gotten your first, or are branching out into doing your own laundry for the first time, have no fear. You can easily learn to operate a washing machine, learn which detergent and fabric softener is best for which kinds of garments, and prevent your clothes' colours from bleeding or ruining your whites.

Separating Garments

Check the tags for special washing instructions. Most clothes are machine washable, but always check the tag for further instructions. Some clothes might shrink if you use warm or hot water to wash. Some might be able to handle bleach and some might not. And some garments can't be washed in a machine, such as certain silks and delicates. Always check the label carefully.

- Put aside clothes that are labeled as "hand wash only" or "dry clean only".
- In most shirts, clothing care labels are located on the inside left side of the shirt or inside the neck area.
- In most pants, clothing care labels are located on the inside of the back of the pants.

Separate your laundry by "colour". Dyes in clothes, especially pieces that are new, lose their colour during a wash. The colour can bleed onto other clothes and damage your

entire load. When you sort your laundry by "colour", this usually means differentiating them by shade. The most basic way to sort your clothes is to separate your darks from lights and wash them separately. You can even sort them more thoroughly by colour.

- Darks include colours such as blacks, greys, dark blues, dark reds, and dark purples.
- Lights include pastel colours like whites, pinks, yellows, light blues, light greens, and lavender.
- Whites include anything that's one-hundred percent white. Avoid washing whites with other light colors since they will become discolored.[2]
- Jeans or dark denims especially bleed their colour and should be washed in their own separate load.

Sort your clothes by fabric weight. Additionally or alternatively, you can protect your clothes from wear and tear in the washing machine by sorting heavier fabrics from lighter weight fabrics. Most washing machines spin and toss clothes around, and the extra aggravation from heavy fabrics might ruin lightweight fabrics. As well, if you're washing a delicate or lightweight load, the cycle's settings and temperature will be different from a heavier fabric load.

- Delicates like lingerie, pantyhose, and washable silks should be washed separately.
- Heavy fabrics include items such as heavy cotton pants, bath towels, jackets, or sweaters.
- If you choose to sort only by fabric, you can save a lot of energy and money from having to wash multiple colour loads.

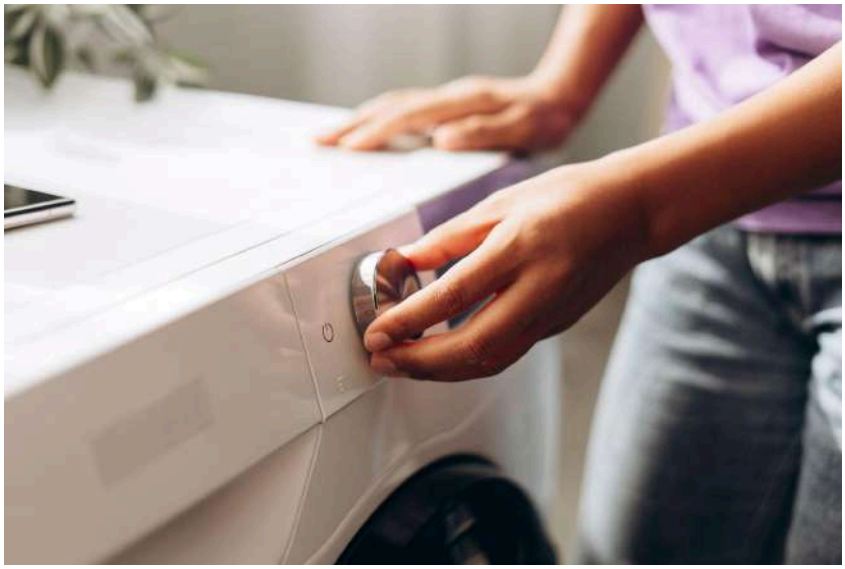
Put delicates into mesh wash bags. Instead of washing delicates separately, you can place delicates into mesh wash bags to protect them from harsh wear and tear. Mesh wash bags can come in various sizes but generally are used to protect only one or a few pieces of garments. They can be washed together with a normal load.

- Mesh wash bags don't protect garments from colours bleeding, so be sure to wash them with similarly coloured loads. In most cases, delicates will not bleed and would be safe to wash with a light coloured load.

Separate out stained clothing. Some stains need special treatment before you can put the garment into the wash. The most popular stains that need pre-treatment are grease and oil stains.

- Avoid washing or drying stained clothing in the machine. Certain stains set when heat is added, making them difficult to remove.

Setting Up Your Washing Machine



Choose the right washing cycle. Wash cycles consist of two important speeds: a speed at which it agitates or tumbles the clothes with water, and a speed that spins the water out of the clothes.[4] Depending on what you're washing, the wash cycle you choose should match what kind of fabric you're washing to help maximize cleanliness while also protecting your clothes.

- Normal Cycle: This cycle goes with a fast/fast approach -- it tumbles fast and spins fast. It helps with cleaning very dirty and sweaty clothes, and is what you will most likely use on a regular basis. Sturdy fabrics like cotton, linen, denim, towels, and bedding do quite well in a normal cycle.

- Permanent or Perm Press: This cycle goes with a fast/slow approach. These fabrics need fast agitation to be clean but a slow spin to prevent wrinkles. Use this cycle for synthetic fibres like rayons, knits, polyesters, and acetates. Synthetic fibres are known to pill, or create small balls of fibre and slow spin cycles help prevent pilling.
- Delicate Cycle: This cycle uses a slow/slow approach, reducing agitation and preventing wear and tear. However, the level of cleanliness decreases with its slow tumbling. This cycle is best used for specific or special garments like lingerie, sequinned clothing, laced or loosely woven fabrics, or items made of sheer fabrics like pantyhose.
- Special cycles: Newer models of washing machines have special cycles that do things such as sanitize, steam, or claim to protect whites and remove stains. Consult your machine's manual for further explanations on what each special cycle does.

Set the water temperature. In theory, the hotter the water, the cleaner the clothes. Hot water sanitizes and kills germs better, dissolves detergents more effectively, and removes built up grime so clothes look brighter and cleaner. However, in some cases, hot water can shrink clothes, fade fabrics, set certain stains in, and can be quite expensive for your energy bill. So choose a water temperature that your fabrics can stand but also what you can afford for the best results.

- Use cool water in the delicate cycle for delicate items, items that have dyes that might bleed, or clothes that aren't especially dirty.
- Use warm water in the permanent press cycle, dark colours, and moderately dirty loads.
- Use hot water for bath and kitchen towels, bedding, sturdy fabrics, or any extremely dirtied items.
- Cold water is the most energy efficient way of washing clothes. About 90 percent of energy used in hot washing cycles is used to

heat up the water. It is also the most gentlest way of washing your garments.

- For some machines, the water temperature is already preset according to what cycle you choose. For example, a normal cycle will most likely use hot water that is 30 °C or 40 °C (85 °F to 75 °F).

Pour in detergent and other boosters like fabric softener. It's important to read your washer's manual and find out what type of detergent your machine can handle and also where to put the detergent. Most machines these days can handle liquid and power detergents, as well as other cleaning agents like bleach.

- Front-loading washing machines usually have a drawer to dispense detergent and will have separate compartments to place fabric softener or bleach. Your machine will dispense the detergents at the right moment for you.
- Top-loading washing machines require you to pour the detergent right into the drum before you start your cycle. It's best to add your detergents before you load your clothes so the high concentration of detergent doesn't stain or damage your clothes. And in some cases, it's best to turn on the water so the detergent dissolves before you load your clothes in.
- The amount of detergent needed varies by brand of detergent and type of washer, so check the back of the detergent box and also look for any labels on your washing machine to find out how much to use.

Load your washer with clothes. This is pretty simple – just dump your clothes in, but be careful not to overcrowd your clothes. You need space for your garments to move and clean themselves. Some machines may even have options to indicate whether your load is small, medium, or heavy. This option adjusts the water levels within your wash cycle according to the size of the load.

- Small loads fill about a third (1/3) of your machine.
- Medium loads fill half (1/2) of your machine.
- Large loads fill three fourths (3/4) of your machine.

Turn on your washer. Ah, sweet success, now all you have to do is hit that on button and you're ready to go! But remember to close the door!

What are the steps to safely operate a microwave oven?

The microwave is an essential kitchen appliance that helps streamline meal prep and fit cooking into busy schedules. This fast, efficient unit adds a ton of convenience to the kitchen, but it's important to find the proper placement for the microwave to maximize its advantages. Simply setting the appliance on your countertop occupies a sizable footprint, taking up valuable workspace that could be otherwise used for prepping ingredients or storing easy-access kitchen tools.

To reclaim some of that valuable countertop space, consider possible locations to integrate a microwave during a kitchen remodel to achieve a more organized, functional design.

Designing for the Microwave

There are many alternatives to storing your microwave on the counter that are much more efficient but no less accessible. Options include building the microwave into cabinetry, installing it inside an island, recessing the unit into the wall, and more.

These space-saving ideas for integrating a microwave demonstrate how to move the small appliance off the countertop without losing its convenience. Each method has pros and cons, so consider your needs carefully when deciding which integrated microwave idea works best for your kitchen.

1. Set a Microwave into Cabinetry

Countertop models can be tucked into a shelf or opening in the cabinetry for a built-in look that allows you to move the microwave off the work surface. For safety, it's best to find a location that offers landing space below. The more tightly the microwave fits into the space, the more streamlined it looks.

Pro: Building cabinetry around the microwave or setting the unit inside a cabinet typically requires no demolition, making it a relatively easy and inexpensive option.

Con: Because there will probably be gaps between the microwave and the cabinetry, you might not get the flush look of a fully integrated, custom unit.

2. Install a Microwave as a Drawer

For a discrete look, consider a drawer-style microwave built into an island or elsewhere below the countertop. When tucked below the counter, a drawer-style microwave offers easy access, readily available landing space for food going into or coming out of the microwave, and no demands on counter space. This configuration features a stylish, integrated appearance and is ideal for kitchens with limited counter space or kitchen island installations. Instead of reaching up to the counter or higher, users of any height can easily access this oven.

Pro: Because of their location, drawer-style microwaves provide easier access than countertop microwaves and over-the-range models while saving counter space. This configuration is the safest for all users and lends a high-end look to the kitchen.

Con: Drawer-style microwaves tend to be more expensive than countertop models and have more limited installation options.

3. Mount a Microwave Over the Range

This arrangement offers a solution for kitchens that are pressed for space. Installing an over-the-range microwave not only integrates the microwave with upper cabinets but also groups the appliance with the range below for a streamlined look. Although many over-the-range microwaves include light and ventilation for the range below, the ventilation does not perform as well as a dedicated range hood and is not enough for pro-style ranges and cooktops.

Pro: Over-the-range microwaves save valuable work space and are adequate substitutes for range hoods in most residential kitchens.

Con: These units are usually more expensive than countertop models and might require professional installation. Reaching over a hot range or cooktop to access the microwave also raises safety concerns.

4. Add a Trim Kit Around the Microwave

Similar to building cabinetry around your microwave, this solution is finished with a trim kit that fills the gaps to create a more integrated look. Most microwaves can be fitted with a trim kit from the oven manufacturer or from another supplier.

Pro: The microwave is fully integrated into the cabinetry, offering a custom look.

Con: A trim kit adds to the cost and requires extra installation expenses.

5. Hide a Microwave Behind a Cabinet Door

Placing the microwave inside a cabinet or appliance garage hides the microwave behind a door that blends with the rest of the cabinetry when the appliance is not in use. In small kitchens, tambour doors work especially well because the door lifts up and out of the way for easy access to the microwave.

Pro: This solution offers the benefit of immediate landing space without having to keep the microwave visible on the countertop.

Con: Adding a door comes with extra cost and installation requirements.

6. Integrate a Microwave with Other Appliances

It makes sense to have cooking appliances in the same location, so group the microwave with a wall oven or other appliances. Selecting a trim kit that matches other appliances helps the microwave blend in.

Pro: Since you're already using the wall for appliances, no additional countertop space is wasted.

Con: This solution requires appliances that match and can be grouped attractively and practically with your microwave.

7. Recess a Microwave into a Wall

Depending on the kitchen floor plan, you might be able to recess the microwave into space stolen from a closet, dead space, or an awkward, unused corner. Before cutting into a wall, ask a builder or remodeler to inspect the wall's structure and add reinforcement if necessary.

Pro: The microwave is flush with the wall for a custom look that doesn't require any counter or cabinet space.

Con: Some demolition and construction will be needed.

How can you effectively use and maintain a refrigerator?

What the changes mean for retailers and consumers On 15 August 2019, the Australian Government introduced new requirements for the energy efficiency of household refrigerators and freezers in the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Household Refrigerating Appliances) Determination 2019. Over time, all household refrigerator and freezers will meet the new requirements.

What are the main changes?

The principal changes introduced by the 2019 Determination are: Strengthened minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) that mean that less efficient refrigerators and freezers will be removed from the market, reducing household energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Appliances will be tested according to an international test standard and energy efficiency performance will be measured over a wider range of operating conditions. This new test data is configured to better reflect how appliances are actually used in homes, so the information on the energy rating label will show more accurately the characteristics of an appliance and its energy efficiency performance during normal use.

What differences will consumers see?

The least efficient appliances will be removed from the market leaving the more efficient refrigerators and freezers that use less energy and are cheaper to run. Because the energy performance of appliances in homes will be measured in a more representative way, the energy consumption numbers on energy rating labels will change and, in some cases, an appliance's star rating may also change. Less efficient appliances may receive less stars and better performers may be awarded more stars on the updated energy rating label. The international test standard measures the cooled volume of the appliance and the total volume of all compartments is now shown on the energy rating label. The new energy rating label looks similar to the old label (see the figure overleaf).

A significant change is how volumes are measured. Under the new testing requirements, the measured volume is the usable and accessible space of the appliance's compartments and excludes hidden inaccessible spaces, such as volumes inside air duct work. The newly defined volume in most cases will be smaller than previous gross volumes measured using the previous Australian/New Zealand methodology, which included some space that consumers could not see Changes to Household Refrigerator and Freezer Energy Efficiency Regulation or access. Inclusion of the new total volume on the energy rating label will allow consumers to more easily compare the size of appliances.

For example, a manufacturer that could previously claim that a refrigerator-freezer had a total volume of 600 litres, may find that under the new measurement method the

same appliance may appear to be 5% to 15% smaller (i.e. in the range 510 litres to 570 litres). However, any difference in claimed volume will be dependent on the specific design characteristics of each model. For example, the volume of a chest freezer that is not frost free will not change, because all of the space inside the freezer compartment is measured in the same way under the old and new measurement procedures. However, the volume of an upright frost-free freezer that has cold air ducts that cannot be accessed will appear to be smaller under the new measurement system.

What is the correct procedure for using an electric oven or stove?

Electric oven or cooktop - problem with operation

- Most ovens or hotplates have a safety switch that needs to be turned on for the stove to work.

- Look for a power point in or near the kitchen that has a third switch in the middle. It may also be located inside a kitchen cupboard.
- Check that the power cord has not come loose from the wall socket.
- Check that mains power has not tripped.
- Ensure the child lock has not been activated.

Electric oven with clocks/timers

- Many cooktops/ovens require the clock to be set/reset before they will operate. Attempt to reset the oven clocks/timers.
- Check that the clock/timer has not been set to auto. Set clock/timer for manual operation.

Additional troubleshooting

Refer to the user manual or troubleshooting guide online for further assistance with general faults.

Gas oven or cooktop - problem with operation

- Check if the LPG cylinders have sufficient gas (where applicable) and that the valve is open.
- Check that the mains gas supply has not been disconnected to the property. This can be confirmed with the service provider.
- Check that the power cord has not come loose from the wall socket.
- Check that mains power has not tripped.
- Ensure the child lock has not been activated.

Gas oven with clocks/timers

- Many cooktops/ovens require the clock to be set/reset before they will operate. Attempt to reset the oven clocks/timers
- Check that the clock/timer has not been set to auto. Set clock/timer for manual operation.

Igniters not working

- Check that the power cord has not come loose from the wall socket.

- If the igniter is battery powered, attempt to change the battery in the battery pack if possible. This is usually located underneath or beside the unit, or in the adjacent cupboard.

Igniter is constantly clicking

Check that igniter/gas burner is clean and dry. If there has been a recent spill or boil over, the igniter/gas burner may still be wet.

Additional troubleshooting

Refer to the user manual or troubleshooting guide online for further assistance with general faults.

How do you clean and maintain an air conditioner at home?

Maintain your air conditioner, and you'll not only save money on energy, but you'll also extend its lifespan, saving money on costly early replacement.

"Maintaining your AC unit is important for energy efficiency, comfort, for overall occupant health and overall unit function," says Dr. Sarah D. Kirby, state program leader for Family & Consumer Sciences and a professor at North Carolina State University.

Dr, Kirby, who is also the assistant director of the NC State Extension, says a properly running air conditioner removes excess moisture in the air, keeping occupants comfortable. Dirty air conditioners or improperly operating systems can lead to the growth of microrganisms such as mold, which can exacerbate allergies and asthma, she says.

The best time to use these tips is just before each cooling season begins. Your Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning system (HVAC) will consist of either a furnace and AC or a heat pump, which both heats and cools. Both types will have an interior unit (evaporator and blower) and an exterior unit (condenser coil and compressor). These instructions apply to a whole-home air-conditioning or heat pump unit.

1. Shut Off the Power

Due to the dangers of working around electricity and the air-conditioner's moving parts, it's essential to completely turn off power to the unit. On the exterior condenser/compressor, look for an exterior shut-off box near the unit (Image 1). Also, turn the power off at the breaker box located inside.

2. Remove Debris

On the exterior condenser/compressor, remove the fan cage. Using a screwdriver or wrench, remove the fasteners, and lift the cage or fan grill away

from the top of the unit. By hand, or with a wet/dry vacuum, clean leaves and other debris from the interior.

3. Clean the Fins

Remove the outer covers and use the brush attachment on a powerful shop vacuum to remove all outside dirt. Then, using a gentle stream from a garden hose, spray through the fins from the inside out to remove any built-up dirt or debris from between them. Never use a pressure washer, since the pressure can damage the fins.

If the fins are particularly dirty, use a commercially available fin cleaning spray available at home improvement centers. Read and follow manufacturer directions.

4. Straighten the Fins + Clean the Area

Since any reduction in air-flow through the fins can reduce efficiency, carefully straighten bent fins using a butter knife or commercially available fin-straightening tool. Be gentle so that the tubing embedded within the fins is not damaged.

5. Clean Area Around the Unit

Once finished with the cleaning, replace the fan cage. Rake back leaves and debris outside the condenser, and cut back branches and vegetation at least two feet in all directions to ensure proper airflow around the unit. During winter months when the condenser is not in use, it’s good to cover the top of the unit with a piece of plywood or plastic to keep debris from falling in. However, don’t completely cover the unit’s sides, since moisture can build up inside and cause

corrosion. Also, a completely covered unit encourages vermin to build nests inside. Remove any cover when the unit is operating.

6. Level the Unit

Over time, the pad where the condenser unit sits can begin to tip as the soil settles beneath it. An out-of-level condenser unit can cause the compressor within to fail early. Check to see that the condenser is level, and use rot-resistant shims to bring it back to level. Service Experts' Moody adds, "If you have a heat pump system, it's okay for the pad to be slightly sloped away from the home's foundation to allow for defrost run-off during the winter."

7. Clean the Evaporator Coil

Now it's time to move inside. On the inside blower/furnace unit, find the evaporator coil door. You may need to remove some foil duct tape and take out a few screws or bolts. Inside, use a soft brush to dust off the coil, then spray the coil with commercially-available, no-rinse coil cleaner (available at home improvement stores). The spray will foam up and then drip into the drain pan. Clean out the drain pan with soap, hot water and a little bleach. Then, pour a cup of 50 percent bleach/50 percent water down the drain. To keep the drain clear longer-term, place a commercially available drain pan tablet in the pan. This will inhibit future algae growth.

If the bleach solution drains easily, skip the next step. If not, move on to Clean the Evaporator Drain. Replace the evaporator coil door, and use foil duct tape to reseal, if necessary.

8. Clean the Evaporator Drain

Warm, humid air from your home's interior is blown through the evaporator coil on the interior. The cold coil absorbs heat from the air, cooling it, before the air is circulated back into your home. The humidity in the air condenses on the cool surface of the evaporator coil as liquid water, dripping into a pan below. From the pan, the water flows into a drain tube which is typically routed into a basement floor drain, utility sink or outside.

Over time, algae and mold can build up and potentially plug the drain, so if the drain is either not flowing or flowing very slowly, it will need to be unplugged. A plugged drain can either cause damage by flooding onto the floor or, if the system is equipped with a drain float, cause the system to stop cooling in order to avoid flooding.

First, find the drain line where it leaves the evaporator coil enclosure. The drain is usually a 1-inch PVC pipe (white, gray or black). Follow it to the end where it drains. Often the line drains outside near the condenser unit, but it can also drain into a utility sink or basement floor drain or, in the case of attic units, down an outside wall.

Once located, use a wet/dry vacuum to clear the drain. It's best to remove the paper filter from the wet/dry vacuum so as not to ruin the filter. Hold the hose of the wet/dry vacuum to the end of the drain line. You can use duct tape or simply hold a rag around the gap. Turn on the vacuum for 2-3 minutes then turn off. This will clear the drain of any growing biological matter.

9. Change the Blower Filter

The filter in your HVAC system should be changed at least twice a year — once just before the heating season begins and once before the cooling season

begins. If you live in a particularly dusty area, you may want to change it more often. Always replace the filter with a new filter that has the same airflow rating. "Be careful with 'air purifying' or HEPA filters," Moody cautions, "because they can dramatically reduce airflow in your system. That can cause the indoor coil to freeze because of the reduced airflow."

Locate the filter enclosure on the indoor furnace/AC where the large fresh air return duct enters the unit. You may need a screwdriver to turn the latch to open the door to the filter enclosure. Remove the old filter and install the new filter, matching the air-flow direction arrows on the filter to the arrows on the unit. Close and latch the door.

10. Turn the Power Back On

While these steps will help to keep your AC system in top shape, be aware that there are maintenance items that only a trained HVAC technician will be able to do. For example, a slow refrigerant leak in your AC system can lead to expensive compressor failure, but a homeowner doesn't have the tools or skills necessary to check refrigerant levels. Also, clean ducts and proper airflow are essential to a well-functioning system, but homeowners lack the necessary equipment for the job. The bottom line? While some AC maintenance can be done by a savvy homeowner, it's still necessary to have an expert technician check the system periodically. Dr. Kirby suggests a service in the spring before the cooling season and then again in the fall before the heating season.

"Just like anything else, when you keep it (air conditioning unit) in good running condition, it will last longer and issues can be addressed before they become major, or worse yet, an emergency," she says.

How to Maintain Your Kitchen Major Appliances

Appliances are built to perform. They work hard, year after year, usually without too many problems. They're easy to take for granted. The result is that when an appliance breaks down, you may be completely at a loss -- you don't know how it works, you have no idea why it stopped working, and you certainly don't know how to fix it.

What can you do? You can pay a professional to fix it, or you can fix it yourself and save money. This article will provide you with all the information you need to know to pull your major appliances apart and then put them back together in working order. But before you attack the refrigerator with a screwdriver, let's get some background information on major appliances. Most appliances operate on your home's electrical system: They use AC current from the circuit wiring in your home. Small appliances work on 110-120-volt circuits, and the plugs on their cords have two blades. Large or major appliances, such as air conditioners, dryers, and ranges, usually require 220-240-volt wiring and cannot be operated on 110-120-volt circuits. Large appliances are wired with a grounding wire; their plugs have two blades and a prong

Regular cleaning is one of the easiest and most effective ways to keep your appliances running smoothly and extend their lifespan. Grease, food particles, dust, and grime can build up over time and cause appliances to work harder than necessary or even stop working altogether. Make it a habit to wipe down surfaces, clean filters, and remove any debris from vents and moving parts. For example, clean your refrigerator coils every six months, run a cleaning cycle on your dishwasher using vinegar, and wipe down your microwave after each use. A little preventative maintenance through regular cleaning can help you avoid costly repairs in the future.

How often should you clean your kitchen appliances?

End of lease cleaning, a necessary step for renters in Australia, is a process that involves the thorough cleaning of all areas within the property. The cleaning is aimed at returning the property to the condition it was first received. Property managers have very high standards and expectations when it comes to inspecting the results of this process.

Among the various areas that require strict attention, the kitchen stands out as one of the most critical and most time-consuming of spaces to take care of during end of tenancy. The main reason for this is the kitchen appliances, which have acquired layers of hard-to-remove grime, grease, and food residue.

In this article, a detailed checklist of kitchen appliances needing cleaning during bond cleaning will be provided. The piece will highlight some of the key tasks that are required to keep your appliances spotless during the final inspection. You may choose to do the cleaning yourself, or you may choose to hire a budget end of lease cleaning Melbourne; either way, these tips will come in handy.

1. Oven Cleaning

One of the dirtiest appliances that can be found in the kitchen is the oven. Cleaning it requires special attention. For starters, remove the racks and trays and soak these in warm, soapy water for half an hour or so to loosen the grease stuck to it.

While this happens, clean the inside and outside of the oven door – pay special attention to the glass panels. Clean the knobs and controls using a damp cloth to remove any grease and dirt from them.

You can also avail oven and BBQ cleaning in Melbourne as these are one of the major requirements in bond agreements across Victoria, so be sure to clean it thoroughly.

2. Stove and Cooktop Cleaning

As a result of regular usage, cooktops and stoves can accumulate a lot of grease, burnt food residue and stains. For a proper clean, remove the grates and burners and soak them in soapy water for an hour. Then, use a degreaser or mild cleaner to scrub the stovetop. If the surface happens to be made of stainless steel, use a cleaner that is suited to cleaning and polishing such

surfaces. As a last step, remove and clean the knobs (if you can) to ensure that no grease is left behind.

3. Range Hood and Exhaust Fan

Like the stove, the range hood can trap a lot of grease and smoke residue, so it's crucial to clean it before the final inspection. For this, firstly, remove the filters and soak them in hot water and detergent. Then, scrub it gently and rinse with water to remove the dislodged dirt. Then, move to cleaning the exterior. Use a degreaser to clean the surface of the hood and, if accessible, clean the fan blades to remove any built-up grease. This step is often emphasised for end of lease cleaning Melbourne to meet the stringent inspection standards.

4. Refrigerator

If the refrigerator is included in the property's list of appliances, cleaning it is a must. Empty it of all its contents and defrost it. Wash the removable shelves and drawers with soapy water and leave them out to dry. Wipe both the interior and the exterior of the fridge using a mild cleaner, paying special attention to the seals and handles. To deodorise the insides, place baking soda within it.

5. Dishwasher

Due to the nature of usage of the appliance, the dishwasher is prone to accumulating food debris and limescale. This is why regular cleaning of this device is often recommended. For a deep clean, remove the filters and rinse them to remove the trapped food particles from it. Following this, use a dishwasher cleaner or vinegar to run a full cleaning cycle. Lastly, clean the seals

and the edges using a lint-free cloth to remove any grime that may be stuck there.

6. Microwave

Another frequently used appliance in the kitchen is the Microwave. It can quickly get caked with food splatters and stubborn stains that require you to give special attention during end of lease cleaning in Melbourne. Wipe the interior of the appliance with a damp cloth and a microwave-safe cleaner or a mixture of vinegar and water. Following this, clean the turntable by removing it and washing it in soapy water. Lastly, wipe the exterior and ensure all the buttons, handles and doors are free from fingerprints and grease.

7. Small Kitchen Appliances

Small appliances like toasters, blenders and coffee machines also need their due attention for the clean-up process.

- Toaster: Empty the crumb tray, clean the exterior and ensure all burnt residue is removed.
- Blender: Wash the removable parts like blades and jars with soapy water.
- Coffee Machine: Descale and clean according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Ensuring the cleanliness of the smaller appliances will showcase our attention to detail, helping make a positive impression on the property inspector.

8. Sink and Garbage Disposal

A clean sink and a clear disposal system can work wonders for the cleanliness of the property. Be sure to scrub the sink using a stainless-steel cleaner or baking soda to remove stains and polish the surface. To clean the disposal system, run ice cubes and citrus peels through it to clean and deodorise it.

Wrapping Up

With the help of this checklist you'll be able to ensure that your kitchen is clean and able to meet the landlord's expectations. However, if the process seems too overwhelming for you to handle, don't hesitate to call the professionals for help. They'll be able to ease your work and give you assurance that the home will be cleaned to the highest standards.

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Effective Use and Maintenance of Household Refrigerators and Freezers

https://www.energyrating.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-12/Changes%20to%20Refrigerator%20Freezer%20Energy%20Efficiency%20Regulation.pdf

What is the correct procedure for using an electric oven or stove?

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How do you clean and maintain an air conditioner at home?

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How to Maintain Your Kitchen Major Appliances

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