



A CLEAN STYLISH HOMES GUIDE

25 DIY PROJECTS THAT SAVE YOU OVER

\$2,000

Real projects. Real dollars back in your pocket.
No contractor required — just a weekend and a little grit.

cleanstylishhomes.com



Okay, let's be honest for a second.

Somewhere along the way, we all started believing that a nice home has to be an expensive one. That every squeaky floorboard needs a handyman, every wobbly chair needs to be replaced, and every clogged drain means a \$200 emergency plumber visit. I'm here to tell you that's just not true — and I've got the receipts (or rather, the lack of them) to prove it.

I've spent years chasing down the cheapest, fastest, most satisfying ways to fix, clean, build, and upgrade every corner of my home myself. Some of these projects take ten minutes. Some take a Saturday afternoon and a playlist. All of them cost a fraction of what you'd pay someone else to do it — and honestly? Doing it yourself feels amazing. There's a very specific kind of pride that comes from looking at a fixed toilet, a regROUTED shower, or a repainted dresser and knowing you did that.

So I put together this guide: 25 of my favorite, most reliably money-saving DIY projects, organized by room and task, with real savings estimates, honest difficulty ratings, and the exact tips that make each one easier. Grab a coffee, a notebook, and let's get your home (and your wallet) in better shape.

SAVES	TIME	LEVEL
What you'd pay a pro, minus what it costs DIY	Realistic time to finish, start to finish	Easy, Medium, or Weekend Warrior

01-05

Kitchen & Cleaning Wins

Small swaps that quietly save hundreds a year

1

DIY All-Purpose Cleaner

SAVES \$180/yr

Easy

5 min

Skip the \$6 spray bottles. Mix water, white vinegar, a squeeze of dish soap, and a few drops of your favorite essential oil for a cleaner that handles counters, appliances, and everyday messes for pennies a batch.

Pro tip: Store it in a glass spray bottle — vinegar breaks down some plastics over time.

2

Homemade Dishwasher Detergent

SAVES \$120/yr

Easy

10 min

Washing soda, borax, and citric acid combine into a powder that cuts grease just as well as the pod brands, at a fraction of the per-load cost.

Pro tip: Add a splash of white vinegar to the rinse compartment for spot-free glasses.

3

Baking Soda & Vinegar Drain Cleaner

SAVES \$60/yr

Easy

15 min

Before you call a plumber for a slow drain, pour in a half cup of baking soda followed by a cup of vinegar, let it fizz for 15 minutes, then flush with hot water.

Pro tip: Do this monthly as prevention and you may never need a plumber snake.

4

RegROUT & Recaulk Your Own Tile

SAVES \$250

Medium

1 afternoon

Grimy, cracked grout ages a bathroom faster than almost anything else. A grout saw, fresh grout, and a tube of caulk make tile look brand new for a fraction of a professional retiler.

Pro tip: Tape off the tile edges before caulking for crisp, professional-looking lines.

5

DIY Oven Deep Clean

SAVES \$90

Easy

2 hrs (mostly waiting)

A baking soda paste left overnight loosens baked-on grease and grime, no toxic fumes and no professional cleaning service required.

Pro tip: Use a plastic scraper, not metal, to avoid scratching the enamel.

06-13

Home Repairs Anyone Can Handle

The fixes that usually mean a service call — not anymore

6

Patch Drywall Holes

SAVES \$150

Easy

1-2 hrs

From doorknob dings to nail holes, a patch kit, some joint compound, and a sanding block make walls look untouched — no drywall contractor needed.

Pro tip: Apply compound in thin layers; two thin coats beat one thick, cracky one.

7

Fix a Running Toilet

SAVES \$120

Easy

30 min

Nine times out of ten it's a worn flapper or a misaligned float, both cheap parts you can swap yourself in the time it takes to watch one episode of something.

Pro tip: Bring your old flapper to the store to match the size exactly.

8

Caulk Windows & Doors for Winter

SAVES \$200/yr

Easy

1 hr

Drafts are basically your heating bill leaking out of your house. A tube of exterior caulk seals the gaps and can meaningfully lower your energy bill all winter long.

Pro tip: Caulk on a dry, mild day — it won't cure properly if it's too cold or wet.

9

Unclog a Toilet or Sink Yourself

SAVES \$100

Easy

20 min

A good plunger and, for tougher clogs, a \$15 drain snake handle almost everything an emergency plumber visit would — without the emergency price tag.

Pro tip: Use a flat-bottomed “funnel cup” plunger for sinks, not the bell-shaped toilet kind.

10

Re-Caulk the Bathtub

SAVES \$150

Medium

2 hrs

Peeling, moldy caulk isn't just ugly, it lets water sneak behind your tub. Strip it, clean the seam, and lay a fresh bead for a bathroom refresh a contractor would charge plenty for.

Pro tip: Run a wet finger along the fresh bead for a smooth, sealed, professional finish.

11

Fix Squeaky Floors

SAVES \$80

Easy

1 hr

A little floor squeak powder (or a few well-placed screws from below) silences the creaks that used to mean waking up the whole house on a midnight snack run.

Pro tip: Squeaks are usually near the edges of a room where boards flex the most — start there.

12

Install a New Showerhead

SAVES \$60

Easy

15 min

A wrench, some plumber's tape, and fifteen minutes gets you better water pressure and a showerhead that actually looks nice — no plumber required.

Pro tip: Wrap the threads clockwise so the tape doesn't unravel as you twist the new head on.

13

Weatherstrip Your Doors

SAVES \$150/yr

Easy

45 min

Peel-and-stick weatherstripping around door frames blocks drafts instantly and pays for itself many times over in lower heating and cooling costs.

Pro tip: Close the door on the strip while it's still tacky to get a perfect compression fit.

14–19

Décor & Furniture Upgrades

Designer looks without the designer invoice

14

Paint & Refinish Old Furniture

SAVES \$300

Medium

1 weekend

That tired dresser at the curb (or in your garage) becomes a statement piece with a sand, prime, and paint — for less than the cost of one throw pillow at a big-box store.

Pro tip: Sand with the grain and always use a bonding primer on laminate or veneer pieces.

15

Build Floating Shelves

SAVES \$120

Medium

3 hrs

A few boards, hidden brackets, and a level get you the exact custom shelving look you've been pinning — sized precisely for your space instead of whatever the store has in stock.

Pro tip: Find studs with a stud finder; anchors alone won't hold shelf weight long-term.

16

Sew Your Own Throw Pillow Covers

SAVES \$80

Easy

1 hr

Fabric remnants and a simple envelope-back pattern (no zipper needed!) refresh your whole living room for the price of a yard of fabric.

Pro tip: Buy inserts one size larger than your cover for that plump, full look.

17

Reupholster a Chair Seat

SAVES \$150

Medium

2 hrs

A staple gun, foam, and fabric transform a dated dining chair into something that looks brand new — multiply this by a full set and the savings really add up.

Pro tip: Pull fabric taut on opposite sides first (like a drum) before stapling the corners.

18

Make Your Own Wall Art

SAVES \$100

Easy

1–2 hrs

Framed fabric, pressed botanicals, or a simple abstract canvas cost a few dollars in supplies and instantly look more “you” than mass-produced prints ever could.

Pro tip: Odd-numbered groupings of 3 or 5 pieces read as more intentional than pairs.

19

Sew Simple DIY Curtains

SAVES \$120

Easy

2 hrs

Basic panel curtains are just hemmed rectangles of fabric. Pick something you love and you'll get a custom look for less than half of ready-made panels.

Pro tip: Add a few inches of length beyond the floor — curtains that pool slightly look far more expensive.

20–22

Organization & Storage

More space, none of the closet-company markup

20

Build a Closet Organizer System

SAVES \$250

Medium

1 weekend

Wire shelving kits and a little planning get you the same double-hang, shoe-rack, shelf combo the closet companies quote hundreds of dollars for.

Pro tip: Sketch your closet and measure twice before buying a single bracket.

21

DIY Pegboard Garage Storage

SAVES \$150

Easy

2 hrs

A sheet of pegboard and a handful of hooks turn chaos into a wall where every tool has a home — and you can see at a glance what's missing.

Pro tip: Trace each tool's outline on the board so everything has an obvious “return spot.”

22

Mason Jar Pantry System

SAVES \$40

Easy

1 hr

Repurposed jars and printable labels turn a cluttered pantry into something that looks straight out of a magazine — and helps food actually last longer.

Pro tip: Write the purchase date on the lid in grease pencil so you can rotate stock easily.

23–25

Kids & Family Projects

Hours of play, minus the toy-aisle price tag

23

DIY Sensory Bins

SAVES \$60

Easy

20 min

Dried rice or beans, a plastic bin, and a few scoops and containers create hours of hands-on play — for less than one of those pre-made sensory kits.

Pro tip: Dye rice with a splash of vinegar and food coloring, then let it dry fully before using.

24

Homemade Play Dough

SAVES \$30/yr

Easy

15 min

Flour, salt, cream of tartar, and water simmered on the stove make a softer, longer-lasting dough than most store-bought tubs — in any color you like.

Pro tip: Store it in an airtight container and it'll stay soft for weeks.

25

Backyard DIY Mud Kitchen

SAVES \$150

Medium

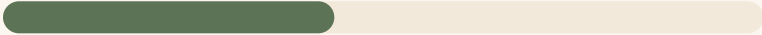
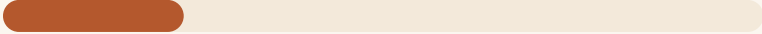
1 afternoon

An old outdoor cabinet or pallet wood, plus thrifted pots and pans, builds a mud kitchen that rivals the \$200+ ones online — and holds up to actual weather.

Pro tip: Add an old colander and funnel — they're the most-used “ingredients” in any mud kitchen.

Add It All Up

Here's what each category is worth if you knock out every project in it.

Kitchen & Cleaning Wins		\$700
Home Repairs Anyone Can Handle		\$1,010
Décor & Furniture Upgrades		\$870
Organization & Storage		\$440
Kids & Family Projects		\$240

ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS: \$3,260

Your actual savings will depend on your home, your local costs, and which projects you tackle — but even doing five or six of these easily clears \$500–\$700. Every project you knock off this list is real money staying in your pocket.

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