

GUIDE TO REFRESH YOUR HOME

WITHOUT RENOVATING
IN MELBOURNE



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Abstract

Discover a revitalizing PDF guide tailored for Melbourne homeowners seeking a home refresh sans renovations. Packed with practical tips, local inspirations, and budget-friendly ideas, it unveils innovative ways to infuse new life into your space. From decor tweaks to organization hacks, this guide promises a rejuvenated home that reflects Melbourne's unique style.

1. Introduction

Embark on a transformative journey with our PDF Guide to Refresh Your Home Without Renovating in Melbourne. Uncover the secrets to revitalizing your living spaces, embracing Melbourne's vibrant aesthetic. Packed with local insights and ingenious ideas, this guide is your key to a rejuvenated home that captures the essence of this dynamic city.

2. Try a Primpover to Update Your Home Without Spending a Penny

Did you ever rearrange your bedroom as a kid, just for the fun of it? It's truly amazing how rearranging some furniture and decor can make a space feel brand new. Little did you know that childhood—you were giving your bedroom a primpover—reimagining the space by using furniture and decor that you already own in new configurations.

As adults, it's easy to convince ourselves that we need to buy new things to make a meaningful update to our space, but we really just need a little bit of creativity. The truth is, you probably already own everything you need to completely redesign your space. Sometimes, all a tired design needs is a little primping to give it a fresh new look.

Whether you're on a budget or are just looking for a way to refresh your existing interior, a primpover may be just what you need. Here's everything you need to know about giving your home a primpover, plus some expert-approved tips for effectively primping your space.

What is a primpover?

A primpover is a way to restyle your space—without spending any money—using items that you already own. It involves reorganizing, decluttering, cleaning, and rethinking an existing room to give it a facelift.

“You take one item from one room, and something else from another, and voila!” says Lauren Saltman, professional organizer and owner of Living. Simplified. “You have reenergized your space without spending a dime or a ton of time.”

Expert Tips for Primping Your Home

To make the most of your primpover, there are a few things expert organizers and interior designers recommend.



Tackle One Room at a Time

One of the most important things to keep in mind when doing a primover is to take it one room at a time. Attempting to revamp your entire house all at once will get overwhelming quickly, and leave you with a mess of rearranged furniture and decor that will take ages to sort through. Start with the room that most urgently needs a refresh, and go from there.

Declutter

Before you start rearranging, give your space a thorough cleaning and declutter items that you no longer use—or no longer like very much.

"If you haven't used it in a year and forgot that you even had it, then it can be donated, or at the very least put in a storage container," says Kristyn Harvey, principal designer and founder of Kristyn Harvey Interiors. "Lack of clutter will immediately make the space feel larger and make you feel an inner sense of calm."

Clear Out Your Decor

Next, it's time to clear away all of the decor and other small items in the room—this will give you a blank slate to work with. Any items that would be difficult to remove from the room, especially those you know will be staying (like furniture and large rugs), don't need to be moved out. Lori Shaw of Lori Shaw Interiors recommends creating a "staging area," which could be a large desk or table, where you'll temporarily keep all of the decor. This will help you see and organize what you have more clearly, and decide what can go back into its original space versus what should be moved to a different room.

In addition to the decor from the room that is being primped over, take a walk through the rest of your house and grab any pieces of decor that feel out of place. If they look like they need a new spot, add them to the staging area for consideration, Shaw says.

Rethink Furniture Configuration

“Next, consider rearranging the furniture by moving the couch or the chairs, or even bringing in furniture from another room,” says Saltman. “Switching up the furniture arrangement can make a place feel brand new again.”

Consider pulling the furniture off of the walls by a few inches, reorienting your couch or accent chairs, rotating area rugs, moving side tables, or creating a new reading nook. Be sure to keep the flow and functionality of the space in mind as you rearrange the furniture. How is the space normally used? Is there way to rearrange the furniture so the space feels more practical and functional? Can you remove any furniture to open up the space and make it feel less crowded?

Restyle Your Space

Once you’re happy with the arrangement of the larger furniture, it’s time to restyle the space with decor and artwork. Take a look back at your staging area and identify the pieces that you like before slowly starting to integrate them back into the room, says Shaw.

“Sometimes a little rearranging, new (to that room!) decor items, a perfectly draped throw blanket, and maybe some flowers or branches from outside placed on a table can give you the designer look you didn’t know you had!” Shaw says. “And it was right in front of you all along!”

Don’t be afraid to hang artwork in new locations, rearrange your throw pillows, and entirely reimagine the space.

Use Fresh Produce and Greenery as Decor

Lastly, using produce or freshly cut branches from outside to decorate is a great way to add a finishing touch to your space without spending a dime. To add a pop of color to a room, try placing produce in a glass bowl or vase. If you prefer to use branches, arrange one or two in a tall ceramic or glass vase to give your space a designer look.

3. Ways to Refresh Your Home for Summer, According to Designers

Summer is almost here. It’s time for open windows, cool breezes, and bright colors. So if your home is looking a little wintery, it might be time to mix things up. Fortunately, getting your home ready for the summer doesn’t have to be a lot of work or cost as much as a weekend at a seaside resort. Here are four easy summer decor ideas to give your home a fresh look for the warmer months ahead.

Swap Out Your Bed Sheets

According to HomeGoods style expert Jenny Reimold, one of the best places to start your summer refresh is the bedroom. “Bedding is the unsung hero of the bedroom and is an easy yet impactful fix,” she explains. “Instead of rehauling the entire bedroom space, simply focus on the bedding for a new look,” she says. If you tend to sleep hot, consider some of our favorite cooling bed sheets.

Then layer your bedding. Reimold suggests using a set that has lines, along with a textured comforter and shams. Start with a base of light bed sheets, then layer on the comforter and other pieces in case the AC gets a little too chilly in the middle of the night.



Refresh Your Throw Pillows

Nancy Evars of Evars Collective and Decorate by Nancy Evars tells me swapping out throw pillows and other accessories is another way to give your home a quick refresh. "Summer is the perfect time to change out pillows, throws, and accessories to brighter and lighter fabrics," the designer says. Just re-accessorizing your sofa with new throw pillows can make a big difference.

Don't have extra space to store your off-season pillows? Just swap out the pillow covers and keep the same inserts from season to season. Bonus points: wash the pillow inserts before switching up the covers.

Replace Those Heavy Winter Curtains

There's something refreshing about a breeze coming through an open window during the warmer months. But it's hard to feel a breeze when your windows are adorned with heavy curtains and drapes. Swapping out those textiles for lighter materials or sheer neutral-colored curtains is easy to do yourself. While custom curtains can be costly, Amazon has plenty of inexpensive choices that can instantly bring a room from winter to summer.

Make It Lush

HomeGoods style expert Ursula Carmona recommends adding some new plants to your outdoor spaces. Not a gardening aficionado? Faux plants can work just as well. "Create an experience for guests in an outdoor space by filling it with faux and real plants for a lush look that's low maintenance. My

favorite DIY hack is re-planting faux plants into hanging planters and planter boxes," she says. Mixing both real and faux plants makes it harder to decipher the fake plants from the real deal.

To add visual interest to your plant collections (both indoors and outside), introduce plant stands so that plants are set at different levels. "To create more dimension, lift some of those stylish planters up off the ground and give them the attention they deserve! Place on top of wooden decorative stools for an elevated look that doubles as a multi-purpose side table in your outdoor space," says Carmona.

4. Home Decor Ideas To Refresh Your Home Without Renovating

Spending a lot of time at home has activated a dormant decorating gene in many of us—and we have the shelfies and Pinterest boards to prove it. Still, even the most Instagram-ready rooms can benefit from a reboot every so often to bring new energy to familiar surroundings. Fortunately for renters and those of us who don't have the time, budget or power tool prowess required of a large scale renovation, there are plenty of no demo home decor ideas for updating your space that won't leave a trail of dust behind and can be easily switched up should you crave another change soon.

Reorienting your furniture, sprucing up your walls, adding dramatic accents (minus any drilling) and drawing the eye to unused areas can change the flow of a room and lead to a whole new look. Here, 12 easy ideas to help renew your living spaces.

Transform Your Walls

Install A (Movable) Wall Mural

This highly-rated wall mural is easy to apply—it's backed with an adhesive that sticks smoothly to your wall, and later removes in strips that won't take off your paint. Designed to cover 81 square feet, the botanical landscape brings a blank, boring wall to life, whether in your bedroom or living room.

Hang Oversized Artwork in Pairs

Just changing the scale and symmetry of the artwork you display can dramatically shift the vibe of a room. Minted sells oversized prints in pairs, like this stunning set, along with others from independent artists that look great side by side

Add A Backsplash Instantly

This peel-and-stick backsplash has racked up more than 1,000 reviews on Amazon for being easy to install and durable. It has a stay-put adhesive and waterproof finish, and comes in 12-inch by 12-inch sheets that you can cut to size to create the look of tiles in your kitchen or bathroom.

Change The Scene With Mirrors

Floor-length mirrors reflect light into your space and also make any room feel bigger by creating the illusion of depth. Go for a curvy shape, which adds a visual pop and contrasts against the straight lines of furniture and other pieces in your surroundings.



Switch Up Your Lighting

Hang Plug-In Pendants In Unexpected Places

Overhead pendants look beautiful and help define a space but can be difficult to install on a whim. This plug-in version from George Oliver solves that problem thanks to a swag hook so you can position it anywhere. Rather than placing the pendant directly over a sofa or dining room table, consider less obvious spots, such as the corners of a room or near the windows to create a reading or hang-out nook.

Cast An Atmospheric Glow

Inexpensive light projectors work remarkably well to bathe your surroundings in soft tones that really change the mood of a room (and make for great Instagram shots). The Balkwan projector comes in three different hues (sunset red, sky twilight and rainbow purple) and has a head that can be rotated 90 degrees for different lighting angles.

Conquer And Divide Interior Spaces

Go For Modular Furniture You Can Rearrange Easily

This modular sofa is designed with pieces that can be pulled together or apart to create different seating arrangements, which can change the orientation—and flow—of your living or family room without having to buy multiple items of furniture

Partition A Room With Bookcases

When you can't put up walls or hang sliding doors, a two-sided bookcase is a creative— and sculptural—way to visually divide a room and create separate zones (for eating, sleeping, studying).

Artfully Conceal With Room Screens

Modem and cable wires, air conditioning units, old radiators...a chic paneled screen hides what you don't want to see in a room so you can focus on the more appealing aspects. While you can find a lot of cheaper options, West Elm's Tiered Cecilia Screen is well made and sturdy so it stands firmly in place and comes in a selection of beautiful fabrics.

Create A Focal Point With Oversized Greenery

Tall potted plants and trees draw the eye up, which can make a small room seem larger and more expansive. Nearly Natural's travelers palms go up to eight and a half feet tall (see the giant version here) and look very realistic—to the point where guests will ask how often you have to water your plants.

Dress Up Your Floors

Redo Surfaces With Peel-and-Stick Tiles

Redoing your floors can be a huge investment and headache, but these peel-and-stick floor tiles are a smart alternative. Ideal for small spaces—like a bathroom, laundry room or entry way—the tiles are thick enough to hold up well over time and are easy to cut and lay down, which has earned them 1,000-plus five-star reviews on Amazon.

Stencil Your Floors

Of all the pandemic home projects that have populated Instagram, here's one that doesn't require professional skills and can be done on a weekend: Stenciling your tiles or floors adds a geometric accent that elevates your surroundings. This graphic pattern has been purchased more than 75,000 times on Etsy and gets high marks for being versatile enough to use on everything from kitchen floors to stairway surfaces.

5. Essential Cleaning Tips For Melbourne Homes With Carpet Flooring

Carpets add an aesthetic feel to your flooring and increase your home's curb appeal. But over time, these carpet fibres can attract pet dander, hair, skin cells, pollen, dirt and dust mites that get embedded in the fabric and hamper the indoor air quality of your home. Besides this, soil and mud from foot traffic can weaken the fabrics of your carpet and make it look old and worn out. Thus, it is necessary to make carpet cleaning a part of your regular cleaning schedule so that you can revive the colour and fabric and make them last longer.

You should also get a deep cleaning done by professional cleaners in Melbourne every 12 to 18 months so that your carpets are free of germs and allergens and can look new and fresh. Here are some reasons why you must keep your carpets clean and tips on how to do this:

Why Is It Necessary To Clean Your Carpets Regularly

Improve Indoor Air Quality

One of the biggest reasons you must pick up your vacuum to clean your carpets is to remove dirt, dust, harmful pollen allergens, germs and bacteria that get embedded in your carpets over time. These

allergens can become airborne with foot traffic and cause respiratory problems like bronchitis and trigger allergies like asthma.



Adds An Aesthetic Appeal To Your Home

Bright and fluffy carpet fabrics can add to your home decor and aesthetic appeal and increase its curb value. This is especially true of wall-to-wall carpeting, which can add a warm and cosy appearance to your home and make it more attractive to future tenants.

Increases The Lifespan Of Your Carpets

Regular cleaning and maintenance can also help revive your carpet fabrics and make them last longer, so you do not have to keep replacing them. You should also get deep-cleaning done every 12-18 months by end of lease cleaning Melbourne professionals to keep your carpets looking and smelling fresh.

Now that you understand why it is necessary to maintain your carpets regularly, here are some useful cleaning tips for your Melbourne home:

Essential Cleaning Tips For Your Carpets

Use A High-Quality Vacuum At Least Once A Week

The best way to keep your carpeted floors clean and free of dirt and grime is to vacuum them at least once a week. You can increase this frequency if you have kids and pets at home and use a high-quality vacuum with a HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filter that traps even the tiniest dirt particles.

End-of-lease cleaners in Melbourne also recommend pulling the vacuum slowly and using overlapping motions to clean deeply embedded dirt particles in your carpets. You can also invest in a vacuum with high suction power and a rotating head that thoroughly cleans in between your carpet fibres.

Tip:

Here are some tips to help you solve the worst carpet problems.

Treat Stains And Spills On The Spot

Next, you can extend the life of your carpets and keep them looking fresh by cleaning spills and stains as they occur. The best way to do this is by first blotting the stain with a clean white cloth to remove the liquid and dirt and then using a solution of vinegar and water to lighten and remove the stain. You can then dry the spot again with a clean cloth and vacuum the area to fluff up the carpet fabrics.

Tip:

You can use these tips to remove wine stains from your carpets.

Avoid Harsh Chemicals That Damage Your Carpet

Next, another tip that can save your carpets and make them last longer is avoiding harsh chemical cleaning solutions. These contain chemicals that weaken the fabric of your carpet fibres and wear them out over time. These chemicals also release toxic residues in your home that are harmful if inhaled and can cause severe allergies and breathing problems.

Instead of these harsh chemical cleaners, you can use natural solutions like vinegar, baking soda and hydrogen peroxide that are cost-effective and will not hamper your indoor air quality.

Tip:

You must test these cleaners on a hidden spot to see if they will discolour or damage the fabric and then proceed.

Use Carpet Protectors To Prevent Indentations

If you have a lot of heavy-duty and bulky furniture in your home, it can leave indentations and marks on your carpets. To avoid this, you can rotate your furniture periodically and use carpet protectors under furniture to keep your carpets in good shape.

For indentation marks, you can place ice over the area, and once it melts, blot the area with a clean towel. Next, iron the cloth over these marks to fluff up the carpet fibres.

Place Door Mats And Rugs In High-Foot Traffic Areas

You can also keep your carpets from getting heavily soiled by placing doormats and rugs in high-foot traffic areas like the entranceways. These can be easily removed and cleaned in your laundry and will help keep your home cleaner and more hygienic. You can also ask your guests to leave their shoes outside and use indoor slippers to prevent soil on your carpets.

Get A Professional Cleaning Done Once A Year

Even though regular maintenance will help keep your carpets clean and hygienic, you must hire professionals to deep-clean your carpets every 12-18 months.

These experts use advanced solutions, high-quality tools and years of expertise to remove deeply embedded dirt, clear old discolourations and stains, remove indentations and revive the look and feel of your carpet. You can also get a steam cleaning done that uses steam to kill microbes and germs in your carpet fibres.

Some Additional Tips

Get rid of foul carpet smells like pet urine with baking soda

Use shaving cream to remove dirt and soil from your carpets

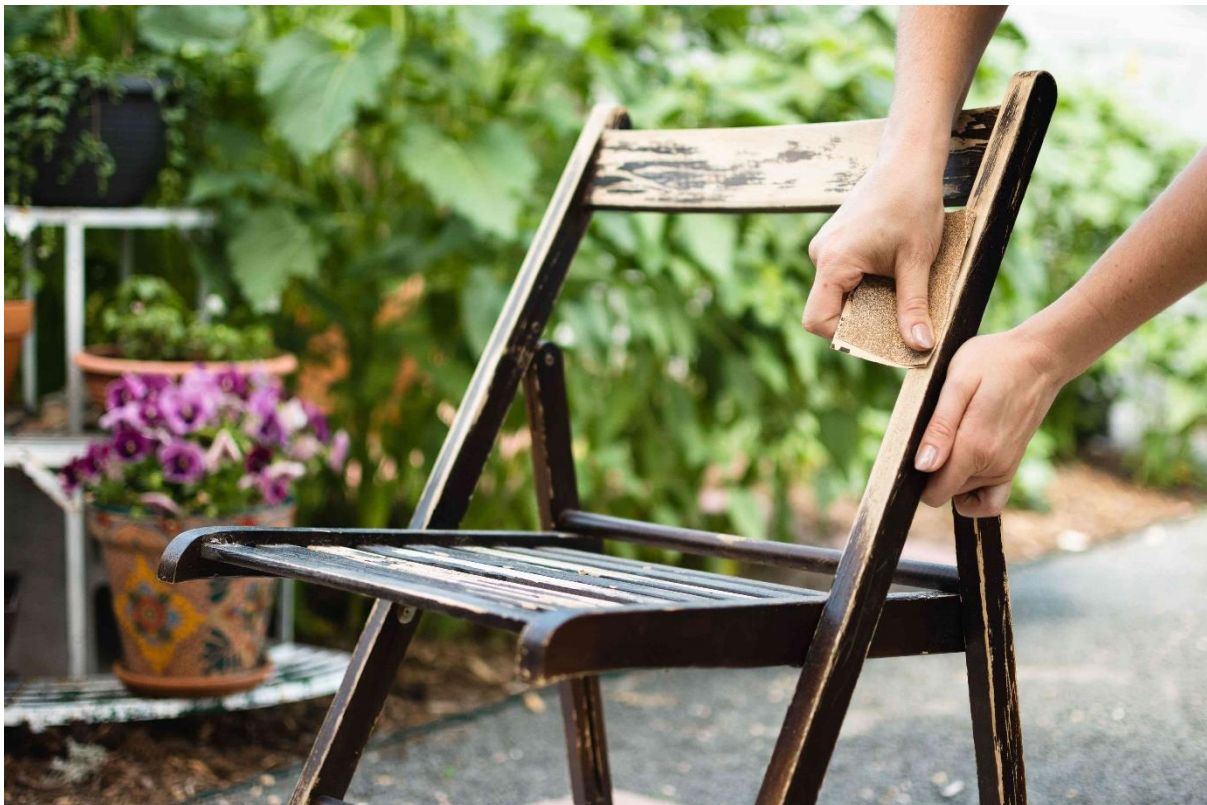
Heat wax stains on your carpet with a hot cloth and then scrape it off with a butter knife

Wet a squeegee and move it across your carpets to get rid of pet hair

Harden gum with an ice cube for 30 seconds and then use a spoon to scrape it off

The above tips will help keep your carpeted floors in Melbourne clean and looking fresh and hygienic. You must also check your manufacturer's guidelines for specific cleaning and maintenance instructions and safe products that you can use on your carpets.

6. Ways to Refresh Your Outdoor Space Without Spending a Dime



Summer is around the corner and so are opportunities to spend your hard earned dollars on al fresco lunches and memory-making beach trips. But spending that money on refreshing your outdoor space? Not necessary.

From easy upgrades like throwing an old linen on a table for an instant outdoor dining glow up to bigger projects like creating a playscape entirely from items found in nature, these 11 ideas will turn your outdoor space, whether it's a small patio or an entire yard, into a warm weather-ready retreat.

Repurpose Old Linens

"If your garden table is a bit tired you can use any type of cloth as a tablecloth to hide it," says Susanne Pumpluen, a digital creator adding with a talent for designing Scandinavian-bohemian interiors. "In the past, I have used anything from a sarong to old linen curtains no longer use."

Pumpluen also suggests using old curtains or shower curtains if you have a balcony or patio that is in close proximity to your neighbors. "Curtains are great as visual protection against neighbors' intrusive glances. I have even stapled old curtains to my balcony railing."

Divide Existing Plants

Tom and Jenny Williams, owners of The Laundry Retreat, use the plants they already have to fill out their lush gardens.

"It is worth dividing perennials that have clumped together and plant them elsewhere," they say.

You can also do the same with seedlings that might have appeared in gravel or sandy spots, where they are easy to pull up.

"You know that these plants will be happy in the garden as they have thrived already. You can also split plants that have been in pots, and place them in borders," they say.

Create a Natural Kids' Playscape

Blythe Yost, co-founder and Chief Landscape Architect at Tilly, points out that while traditional play sets are wonderful, they're typically pricey and kids outgrow them so quickly. Instead, she suggests refreshing your outdoor space with a playscape made from found items.

"A natural play area can be created with things you find in your backyard or during a nature hike in the surrounding area," says Yost. She suggests setting up a large log as a balance beam, creating an obstacle course from tree stumps, or DIYing a sand pit if you have access to actual sand.

Scatter Seeds at the End of the Season

Have you ever spotted seedlings coming up in the spring and assumed they were weeds? Not so fast, says Landscape Designer Melanie Rekola. Give them time to grow before you get rid of them, you might be surprised when it turns out they're the next generation of last year's flowers. But Rekola suggests making it even easier on yourself.

"In late fall you can collect and scatter seeds in areas you'd prefer them to grow," she says.

Bring Inside Decor Out for the Day

Pumpluen suggests taking cushions or accent pillows from inside the house and using those on your patio furniture on a nice day. If you're entertaining guests, dress up your outdoor space with those vibrant textiles, but don't forget to bring them in to protect them from summer storms.

Repaint Your Outdoor Furniture

If you have old wooden furniture that's seen better days, give it a new life rather than tossing it in the dumpster. Forage through your garage or shed to find extra paint, then pull out a brush and get to work.

"Whether it's old wooden adirondack chairs or a set of wicker, fresh paint in a fun color can make your outdoor living space feel new," Yost says.

Upcycle Planters

"Before purchasing new planters, look around to see what you can upcycle from things you already have around the house," says Rekola. She suggests putting a basic plastic pot inside a woven basket or using a planter upside down to elevate another when combining planters in a grouping.



Prune and Delete

Sometimes the easiest way to refresh a space is by removing, not adding.

“Having overgrown shrubs can make your yard feel smaller,” says Yost. She recommends hard pruning or removing overgrown shrubs to give your outdoor space a lighter, airier look. Plus, she says, “Having a more blank space can sometimes spark more creativity in your space!”

Reuse Natural Materials

“We try to keep everything that we dig up, especially river cobbles, and re-use them in later landscaping projects,” the Williamses say.

Their sustainable approach of using what’s around you guarantees that not only are the materials free, but they will blend in with your existing landscape and create a cohesive, organic look. But it doesn’t always have to be found materials from nature. They’ve also used fallen roof slates as edging.

Propagate Plants From Cuttings

Rekola suggests getting plants for free by propagating them from cuttings.

“Take soft plant cuttings including leaves, put them in water and wait for the roots to grow. Change and top off the water regularly as this process can take many weeks and sometimes months! Once you see substantial roots, it’s time to plant them,” says Rekola.

Try swapping plants with friends this way. Each of you can grow a different plant, then trade the propagated plants next season.

Create a Secret Nook

"Create a bistro dining nook in an unused corner of your backyard or set up a quiet relaxation area outside your bedroom door," Yost says.

She suggests going this by rearranging or moving existing patio furniture into a new spot. String outdoor lights overhead, add a few pots from elsewhere in the yard, and you'll have a truly magical hideaway.

7. Conclusion

"As we conclude our Guide to Refresh Your Home Without Renovating in Melbourne, we hope you're inspired to embark on a revitalizing journey. With a blend of local charm and practical tips, transform your living spaces into havens of style and comfort. Embrace the essence of Melbourne in your home, where every corner tells a unique story. Cheers to a refreshed and renewed living experience!"

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