

# Common Household Problems And How To Fix Them Yourself

By: Aria Watson



## Abstract

Household problems are an inevitable part of homeownership, but many issues can be resolved quickly and efficiently without the need for professional help. This article explores common household problems such as leaky faucets, clogged drains, peeling paint, squeaky doors, and malfunctioning appliances. It provides simple, step-by-step DIY solutions to fix these issues using basic tools and materials available at home or local stores. By learning to tackle these problems independently, homeowners can save time and money while gaining valuable skills to maintain their homes.



## 1. Introduction

Every home, no matter how well-maintained, faces its fair share of common problems over time. From dripping faucets and jammed doors to clogged drains and flickering lights, these issues can disrupt daily life and cause unnecessary stress. While hiring a professional in Hobart is often the go-to solution, many of these household problems can be easily fixed with a bit of know-how and basic tools. Not only does tackling these issues yourself save money, but it also empowers you with practical skills and a sense of accomplishment. In this guide, we'll explore some of the most common household problems and provide straightforward, step-by-step instructions to help you fix them like a pro.

## 2. Natural Pest Control Solutions To Try



Pests can pose major problems for households. Even if there's just one flitting or flying around now, it's safe to assume that they invited their friends to a house party that you didn't know you were hosting.

You could put a halt to things with a call to a professional exterminator. You could also try to tackle it yourself with any one of the many commercial pest removal sprays on the market. However, both options likely involve harsh chemicals that smell awful and could even be toxic to your household, putting children and animals, in particular, at risk.

Good news: There are a number of much-gentler and natural pest control solutions you can try first. The best part? While some of these natural solutions might sound a bit unsavory to mix up, they're all non-toxic—except for those soon-to-be exterminated pests, of course:

### 1. Natural Fly Traps

Fill an empty soda bottle with some sweetened water—you can use sugar, syrup, honey or even overripe fruit. Add a few drops of vinegar to keep the bees away. The flies will zoom into the bottle for a sip of something sweet, but once their wings are wet, they won't be able to fly back out.

If you've got fruit flies in your kitchen, try apple cider vinegar. Put a little in a bowl or a glass and cover with plastic wrap, then poke some holes in the surface. Those little buggers will fly into the holes, but they won't be able to get out again.



## 2. Essential Oil Sprays

Is there anything essential oils can't do? It doesn't seem likely. Add pest extermination to their long list of magic tricks. Get a spray bottle and fill it with water, then add about five to 10 drops of the following oils, depending on the type of pest you're looking to deter. Spray the affected areas; you could also saturate cotton balls and leave them in areas where you've seen the creepy crawlers:

- Roaches: Tea tree or eucalyptus
- Ants: Spearmint, peppermint or lemon
- Flies: Rosemary, peppermint, eucalyptus or basil
- Mosquitoes: Peppermint, lemongrass or tea tree
- Spiders: Spearmint or peppermint
- Fleas: Lavender, lemongrass or peppermint

## 3. Fresh Herbs



Herbs are a great way to add fresh, vibrant flavor to meals, but they'll ruin the appetites of insects, particularly mosquitoes. If you're outdoors, add a few sprigs of rosemary or sage to the barbecue or fire pit to keep those annoying visitors away in Hobart.

If you're having issues with flies indoors, put a small basil plant in affected areas and they'll fly away.

#### **4. Coffee Grounds**

After you get your caffeine fix, take those soggy grounds and sprinkle them outside your house where you believe the bugs have found their way in. The remains of your dark roast will offend pests and other critters, but for ants in particular, your morning cup of Joe is a killer.

#### **5. Citronella**

It's easy to think of citronella only in terms of lighting a candle outside at a barbecue to banish mosquitoes, but you can bring this lemony scent indoors, too. Tuck away some citronella-scented sachets in your kitchen to keep moths and roaches at bay.

#### **6. Banana Peel**

In classic comedies, the banana peel was the gag of choice to stop people in their tracks, and the same goes for garden pests, particularly aphids. If you've got problems in your vegetable or flower garden, plant a banana peel in the soil right by the stems of the affected plants. The decaying fruit peel will not only get rid of pests, but it'll fertilize the soil, too.

#### **7. White Vinegar**

This is one item you should always have on hand in your pantry, as it comes to the rescue often as a gentle cleanser. This time, try it to get rid of ant trails in your home. Take two cups of water, add a ¼ cup of white vinegar, and a few drops of peppermint or eucalyptus oil. Use it to wash the area you last saw ants and they will go marching off.

### **3. Tips to Improve Indoor Air Quality for Better Breathing**



You may not think much about the air quality inside your home if you are primarily asymptomatic. But the truth is air quality can have a much more significant impact on your health than you realize. Some symptoms of unhealthy indoor air quality include headaches, irritation of your ears, nose, and throat, and dizziness, among others—but more severe effects can include cancer and respiratory diseases.

A quality air purifier is one way to improve air quality in your home. Alternatively, you can get a cooling fan that also functions as an air purifier. However, you should keep a three-pronged approach in mind: Filter the air, introduce fresh air, and manage humidity, experts say. Here are 12 ideas for improving indoor air quality in Hobart, whether you or someone in your home has allergies or environmental conditions outdoors are causing poor air quality inside.

### **Remove obvious air pollutants.**

"In general, people spend about 90 percent of their time indoors, according to data from the Environmental Protection Agency. And the quality of the air we breathe that 90 percent of the time (or more) is crucial to our overall well-being," said Steven Haywood, MD, a former respiratory therapist turned board-certified emergency medicine physician with Summa Health in Hobart.

"The first step to better air quality is to remove anything from your home that is causing your indoor air quality to degrade," said Peter Mann, founder and CEO of Oransi, a North Carolina-based air purification company. This may or may not be easy. For example, if you have cleaning supplies, paint, or other chemicals in the house, simply move them to the garage and out of your main living area.

### **Bring in fresh air.**

However, Mann says that improving the air quality in your home can be as simple and quick as opening ventilation windows. Sometimes, that's not always practical, depending on the weather, humidity, pollution, pollen levels, and other local factors outside. However, if you can, anytime you feel the air is stuffy inside, just open up a window for a while and let some fresh air in!

### **Update your thermostat.**

"A thermostat that can push air around your home when you're not using the heat or AC is ideal. Look for one with a circulating mode," says HVAC professional Joseph Wood, founder of Boston Standard, a heating, air conditioning, and plumbing company.

Some circulating thermostats will run your indoor fan for 20 minutes every hour, while others may allow the fan to run continuously at a reduced speed for constant airflow. If you

have a smart thermostat, you may also be able to turn on the fan manually from your phone when you need some extra circulation.

### **Run bathroom or kitchen exhaust fans.**

Running a bathroom or kitchen exhaust fan may sound extreme (and maybe a little annoying, as the sound can be grating), but this step can help improve indoor air quality by removing stale, humid air from the home.

“This feature will constantly draw air out of the home, thereby drawing fresh air in to replace it,” Wood said. If you don't want to run the exhaust fan constantly, focus on running it for an extra 20 minutes after a shower or when your home needs a refresh.

### **Maintain your dehumidifier.**

Moist air can be great for indoor air quality, but too much of a good thing can have the opposite effect. Ideally, you want to maintain an indoor relative humidity between 30 and 50 percent.

"Take care of your dehumidifier, and keep it clean and running throughout the humid season in your area," Wood said. For example, in Hobart, April through October would make sense; it would be sensible for Floridians to run dehumidifiers all year long to remove sticky air.

### **Add humidity in winter.**



"Keeping your home at an ideal humidity level will help you maintain a healthy air environment. In the summer, you will likely need a dehumidifier to help. However, a humidifier is beneficial during winter when the air is typically dry. So whether moist air is

delivered via a portable or professionally installed system, humidifiers are recommended to help improve overall air quality," Wood said.

### **Buy a quality air filter.**

"It makes sense that higher-quality air filters will capture more particles. However, the catch is that smaller particles will cause the filter to clog faster, requiring more frequent replacement," Wood said.

He recommends changing your air filter every 30 days or so (or if you have a larger capacity filter, every six months). Keep replacement filters on hand so you have them when you need them.

### **Limit scented items.**

We hate to break it to you, but Mann says that those scented candles, air fresheners, diffusers, etc., that you love can contribute to the poor air quality inside your home. Some scented products contain harmful volatile organic compounds (VOCs)—such as formaldehyde, benzene, and toluene—that can be hazardous to your health.

Excess exposure to harmful VOCs can cause headaches and irritation to your eyes, nose, and throat. Many cleaning, disinfecting, cosmetic, degreasing, and hobby products contain VOCs, too. Avoid these products whenever possible, and when you can't, ensure you thoroughly ventilate your home.

### **Mushrooms!**

Plants - move over for the new wave. Mushroom grow kits allow you to grow your veery mushrooms at home, which many people enjoy for the culinary benefits. But, did you know that blue oyster mushrooms have actually been found to have air-purifying qualities? A student at Brunel University in London is currently working towards using oyster mushroom tiles to turn hydrocarbons emitted by cars and other machinery into an energy source.<sup>1</sup> Plus, they are delicious.

## **4. Light-Boosting Hacks To Bring More Natural Light into Your Home**

More daylight can make rooms look bigger and contribute to well-being, so who wouldn't want to optimize it? But when budget forbids calling in the pros, DIY hacks for getting more natural light into your home are required.





Great house design can maximize the daylight that reaches the interior. And in an existing home it's possible to boost it by remodeling. Yet there are ways to bring in daylight that are less disruptive and costly and, even better, that you can achieve yourself.

These expert hacks will make rooms lighter, brighter and larger feeling with just a little time and effort that will be well worth it for the results.

### **5 light-boosting hacks to try at home**

Clever decor choices, like choosing the right colors for walls and decorating with mirrors, can boost the light once it's reached your room. And major interventions such as fitting a roof lantern can increase natural light as well.

But if you want to let more light into your house in the first place and achieve your goal by your own efforts? These are the DIY ways to do it.

#### **1. Clean windows**

If window panes attract your attention because of what's on them rather than the view through them, they're obstructing natural light.

The remedy? 'Clean your windows regularly to remove dirt, rain stains, dust, and grime that can block light,' says Jeremy Sibley, president of Glass Doctor, a Neighborly company. 'Make sure to clean both the glass and the surrounding frames to ensure maximum light entry.'

Avoid streaks by using the tried-and-tested ways to clean a window for glazing that's light maximizing.

#### **2. Think curtain rods**

Like windows that aren't pristine, the position of curtain rods could be compromising the passage of natural light into your home. Fabric blocking the glass means fabric blocking the natural light, so you might need to alter the height of a rod or invest in one that's wider.

'Opt for curtain rods mounted well above the window frame to allow maximum light exposure,' says Tina Priestly, CEO of Ready, Set, Refresh. Use the rules designers follow to decide how high to hang curtains and place curtain rod brackets to allow for panels to be pulled away from the glass. Installing curtain rods is a simple DIY job.

And if privacy prevents the glazing being totally unobscured during daylight hours but brightening the room is a priority? 'Swap out heavy curtains for sheer or lightweight fabrics,' says Tina. 'Sheer curtains soften the light and add an airy, ethereal quality to your rooms.' In other words, more light without compromising privacy.

### **3. Trim foliage**

Cleaning windows and hanging window treatments differently can let more light in, but what if the light's impeded before it even reaches the window?

'Trim any foliage that might be overshadowing your windows from the outside to allow more natural light to penetrate your indoor spaces,' recommends Jeramy Sibley.

'This is particularly important for windows that face garden areas or have trees nearby. Keep trees and shrubs around your home well-trimmed to maximize sunlight reaching your windows.'

To keep the plants healthy, follow the one-third pruning rule that stops you snipping off too much in one go; it will also help keep their structure open so light (as well as air) flows through the foliage since you'll want to enjoy their presence along with boosting the light inside your home.

### **4. Tunnel the light**

While it's a more complicated job than some of the other hacks, fitting a light tunnel, also known as a solar daylighting tube and by other similar names, is a DIYable project.

As the name suggests, one of these introduces natural light into a space in your home via an entry point in the roof, bringing it to the room through a tube and then diffusing it into the space.

'Because the light is coming from above rather than the side, it provides excellent illumination,' says Gabriella Dyson, Head of Solved at Homes & Gardens. 'Even better, one of these can be fitted where a window wouldn't go.'

'You can pick up the parts you'll need to construct a sun tunnel in a hardware store when you're DIYing,' she advises. 'But if you like the idea of this daylight booster but don't want to go up on the roof, you could call in a pro installer.'

### **5. Borrow light**

If natural light is reaching a room well, but the one beyond is dark, then the answer is to borrow the light from the first room. A DIYable way to achieve this is to swap a solid interior door for one that's glazed – or partially glazed.

Clear glass will maximize the movement of light, but frosted glass will still let daylight through and offer privacy if that's required.

Think about the door's style when borrowing light. 'A single glazed panel lets the most light through,' advises Gabriella. 'The muntins of a multi-panel design will block a certain amount. And if you're opting for a door with, say, two or three glass panels, those with narrow stiles (the vertical pieces) and narrow rails (the horizontal pieces) will minimize light impediment.'

Getting more light into a home has a host of benefits. 'These strategies enhance your overall wellbeing by making spaces feel more open and connected to the outdoors,' says Jeramy Sibley. 'They also support a healthier home environment by boosting mood and productivity through increased exposure to natural light.'

## 5. Tips For Clearing Blocked Drains Using Household Items



Drains are among the dirtiest spots in your home, with millions of bacteria, viruses and fungi. These fixtures also house dirt, hair, food bits and other contaminants that accumulate in the drains over time and cause clogging. To maintain the optimal functioning of the drains, increase their longevity and prevent bad smells, you must routinely maintain and clean the fixtures. If you are a renter, removing an obstruction from the drains and sanitising them is crucial to get your bond back in full. You can hire professionals for bond cleaning in Hobart or specialists for drain cleaning (if they are challenging to clean) and get your bond back

completely. However, it's better to clean the drains in your home routinely to prevent blockage. You can use commercial drain cleaners in Hobart, but they have corrosive, toxic and dangerous chemicals. Therefore, you must know how to clear and clean blocked drains with things readily available in homes. To get started, look at these 9 tips for drain cleaning using household items.

### **Use Dishwashing Liquid & Boiling Water to Clear Drains**

Dishwashing liquid has a degreasing ability and dissolves dirt, grime and dust more quickly than most commercial cleaners. You can use it to wash drains and remove light buildup clogging the fixtures. All you need to do is pour boiling water first into the drain, followed by a few squirts of dishwashing liquid. Alternatively, you can mix dishwashing liquid in the water before pouring it into the drain. Let the soap dwell for 5-10 minutes before washing it with boiling water. This trick comes in handy while sanitising drains during bond cleaning in Hobart.

### **Remove Hair, Threads & Lint with a Flexible Drain Cleaning Brush**

These things can end up in drains, especially the ones in the bathroom and laundry room, clogging the fixtures and making them a hot spot for germs. Removing hair, threads, and lint is challenging without a drain cleaning brush, a common cleaning product in the household. Just make sure yours is flexible and can get inside the drain with little effort. You can use it to take out the gunk and toss it in the trash without contact.

### **Sanitise Drains with Baking Soda & White Vinegar**





If your drains are heavily soiled, soap and boiling water alone won't work. Thus, you must also sanitise the drains with baking soda and white vinegar. Their reaction together creates carbon dioxide, a gas that dissolves grime and gunk. Thus, after pouring dishwashing liquid and boiling water into the drain, put in a cup of baking soda followed by a cup of white vinegar. Wait 10 minutes or until the fizzling settles, then wash all the grime & residue with boiling water.

### **Plunge the Drain to Agitate Gunk & Grime**

Unclear drain back up water or don't drain at all. One of the easiest and most effective ways to unclog drains is with a plunger. It creates a deep suction that agitates the gunk and grime, blocking the drain & loosens it to restore proper drainage. After plunging the drain, you must pour boiling water into the drain to check its functionality and remove any remaining residues.

### **Pour Bleach into Drains**

Dirty drains not only smell bad, but they also attract pests like cockroaches, spiders, fungus gnats, drain flies, fruit flies and more. These pests can contaminate your food or make household surfaces unsanitary. Therefore, you must unclog the drains and disinfect them with bleach. To do this:

- Pour boiling water into the drain, followed by a cup of bleach.
- Cover the drain and let the bleach dissolve the grime for 30 minutes.
- Uncover the drain and wash with water. The smell of bleach will keep pests away, and you can also keep the fixtures clean longer.

### **Make a Wire Coat Hanger into a Drain Cleaner**

If you don't have a drain cleaning brush at home, improvise and make a drain unclogged with a wire coat hanger. Open the hanger to straighten the hanger and create a hook at the end to catch blockage. This cleaning hack is handy whether you want to unclear drains during bond cleaning in Hobart or general house cleaning in Hobart.

### **Clear & Deodorise Drains with Lemon & Salt**

Lemon has citric acid, which dissolves grease, grime and dirt. When combined with salt, it becomes a powerful house-cleaning essential. To use it to sanitise drains, get a lemon juice concentrate, mix it with salt and pour it in the drain. Let the solution dwell for 30 minutes or more before washing it with hot water. Not only will lemon and salt clear the clogs, but they will also deodorise the drains by preventing bad odours and having a fresh-smelling home.

### **Unclog Drains With Hot Water & Ammonia**

Ammonia is a common household cleaner and one of the best products for clearing clogs and sanitising drains. All you need to do is boil a litre of water and mix one cup of ammonia. Pour this solution into the drain and let it dwell for 30 minutes. Using a plunger agitate the clog if it's not draining the solution. Afterwards, rinse the ammonia with ample water to have sanitary drains. This method is the most effective for drain sanitation during bond cleaning in Hobart.

### **Remove the Clog with a Toothbrush**

Usually, the drain trap is the root cause of the clog that is preventing the drain from functioning adequately. You can quickly clean this part of the fixture with a toothbrush because its narrow head can get inside the crevices. Use a bendable toothbrush to get the best results. Also, use a dishwashing liquid to scrub the gunk, and the brush will also collect hair, lint and other things clogging the drain trap. This is an old-fashioned cleaning tip that actually works.

## **6. DIY Tips to Clean a Stove Top**



Of all the surfaces in your kitchen, knowing how to clean a stove top may be the most crucial appliance care to get right since your cooktop probably suffers the most spills, splashes, and stains. Worse still, high heat from the burners can cause messes to become baked-on and challenging to remove. Keep it pristine by spot-cleaning minor mishaps at mealtime and dedicating time each week to perform a more thorough scrubbing. A daily wipe-down during your routine kitchen cleaning only requires a spritz of cleaner and a swipe with a damp cloth.

However, scrubbing your stove top weekly requires a little more work. Whether you have a glass cooktop, a gas stove, or electric coil burners, we'll show you the best method for cleaning a stove top.

### **Before Getting Started**

Stoves, especially those with gas burner heads, have inner working stove parts that are intricate and vary significantly from model to model and brand to brand. You'll want to be well-informed on how to clean stove top burners on your specific appliance so you don't damage them and cause your stove to malfunction or become a hazard.

Your owner's manual will be a helpful reference. Inside, you'll find instructions specific to your model and diagrams that spell out exactly how to clean your stove top. Can't find your manual? Search the model number (often on a label inside the door) online to find a digital version, or consult the manufacturer's website, which might have cleaning tips and how-to videos.

### **What You'll Need**

- Equipment / Tools
- Single-edged scraper
- Microfiber cloth
- Toothbrush
- Sponge or scouring pad
- Materials
- Glass cleaner (approved for stove tops)
- Gas range cleaner
- Vinegar
- Baking soda
- Dish soap

### **Instructions**

Gas stove tops continue to be one of the most popular stove options. They use a real flame that provides responsive, even heating. Modern gas cooktops offer a range of burner sizes and shapes, so you can always find the right surface for the job. Since your cookware sits

atop grates, you can use stoneware or cast iron skillets, which would otherwise scratch a glass cooktop.

Although daily cleaning isn't as easy as the "wipe and go" method conducive to a glass stove top, how to clean a stove top with gas burners is still pretty simple.

### **Remove Grates**

When the stove top is cool, pick up the grates and wipe up any spills or crumbs that fell beneath the grates.

### **Clean the Stove Top**



Spray with a cleaner that is designed for gas ranges. Wipe clean with a damp cloth. Wipe the grates with a damp cloth. If grates are particularly dirty, wash them with dish soap and warm water in the sink. See the instructions below for how to deep clean gas stove grates.

### **Dry Cooktop**

Dry the cooktop with a microfiber cloth. Dry and replace the grates.

### **How to Clean Gas Stove Burners**

From time to time, look under the burner caps to assess if the burner heads need cleaning. Proper gas flow is dependent on clean burner heads. Before starting, ensure all the burners are off and the stove top is cool.



### **Soak up Spills**

Remove grates. Use a damp cloth to soak up any spills in the burner head and slots.

### **Remove Crumbs**

Use a nonabrasive brush, like a toothbrush, to remove any crumbs between the burner slots. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.

### **Replace Grates**

Wipe dry with a microfiber cloth and put the grates back on the cooktop.

### **How to Clean Gas Stove Grates**

Grates make cleaning a gas stove top more difficult. Grease, oil, and food particles splatter onto the grates until the buildup becomes noticeable. By then, the sticky residue is stubborn. If the manual for your gas stove top says it's okay, you can run the grates in your dishwasher regularly. For cooked-on stains, clean grates with dish soap and warm water.

### **Soak Grates**

Soak the grates in warm, soapy water in the sink. A good grease-cutting soap, such as Dawn dish soap, will help break down the cooked-on gunk.

### **Scrub Grates**

Scrub the grates gently. If they aren't coated, you can use a gentle scouring pad. For coated grates, use a sponge. (Remember that handy owner's manual? It should indicate what types of grates you have.) Use a large storage bin if your grates are too large to place in the sink.

### **Dry Grates**

Dry the grates with a clean cloth and return to the stove top.

## **7. Quick and Easy Ways to Repair a Blown Fuse**

Fuses are electrical safety devices that offer overcurrent protection to your home or vehicle's wiring. Without them, you're risking potential wire damage—or worse, fire hazards. Whether you're temporarily trapped in the dark after plugging in one too many appliances, or you're without a radio on a long drive, fortunately, fuses are a simple, quick, affordable fix. So, grab some insulated gloves and a trusted pair of tweezers and follow this guide to get started!



### Things You Should Know

To replace a blown fuse in your home, cut power off from your circuit breaker and unscrew the broken fuse. Then, screw a new fuse of the same amperage into the socket.

To replace a blown fuse in your car, disconnect the battery and remove the blown fuse. Then, take a new one of the same amperage and push it gently back into place.

### How to Fix a Blown Fuse in Your Home

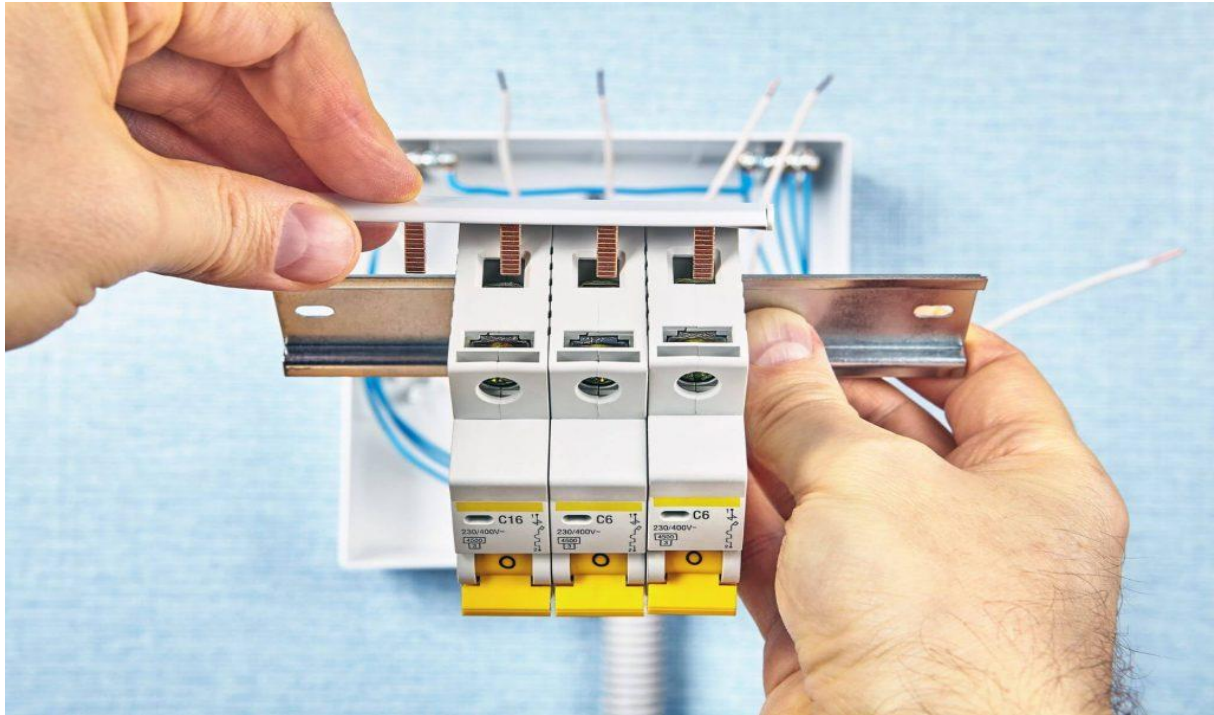
**Locate your home's circuit breaker.** Your home's circuit breaker, or service panel, is easily identifiable. Look for a gray steel box with a hinged door. It will either be placed directly into your wall or secured to it. They're typically located in the basement, however, for homes without one, you can find it in your utility room or garage.

**Unplug electrical appliances and turn off power.** Before engaging in any electrical work, first unplug any appliances and shut the power off. This is so you don't accidentally touch exposed wires or other components that can shock or electrocute you. To avoid injury, use extreme caution.

**Grab your safety gear.** While you don't need to dress head-to-toe in protective gear, it's always better to be safe than sorry. It only takes 500 volts to cause serious damage to your body. At minimal, put on a pair of electric insulated gloves to keep your fingers safe from unexpected shock or burns.

**Identify the blown fuse.** Every circuit breaker panel comes with steel stamped numbers and a paper glued to the back of the panel door. This helps you match individual breakers to

specific circuits. For example, if you've blown an outlet in the bathroom, you'll need to find the "Bathroom outlets" breaker.



**Replace the blown fuse.** Unscrew the fuse by twisting it out of its socket, touching only its face. You can also use a fuse puller if you're experiencing difficulty. Remove it completely from its socket, making sure to avoid touching the metal threaded base of the fuse.

**Reset your circuit breaker.** Flip the breaker you've just replaced back to the "on" position. Return to where you originally lost power and turn on a light fixture or appliance to make sure the circuit has power.

**Call an electrician if your circuit still trips.** If you find that power is not resuming or the circuit trips shortly after being restored, it's time for a helping hand. A professional fuse replacement service can run anywhere between \$400 to \$2,000 in the Hobart.

## Conclusion

Dealing with household problems doesn't have to be overwhelming or expensive. With a little patience, the right tools, and basic knowledge, many common issues can be resolved quickly and efficiently on your own. By addressing problems like leaky faucets, squeaky doors, or clogged drains promptly, you can prevent minor inconveniences from escalating into costly repairs in Hobart. Embracing a DIY approach not only saves money but also equips you with valuable skills for maintaining your home. So, the next time something goes wrong, remember that a simple fix might be just a few steps away!

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