

A man in a grey t-shirt and jeans is standing on a wooden stool, painting the upper part of a white wall with a brush. A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black top and shorts, is sitting on the floor, which is covered with newspapers. She has white paint splatters on her legs. An orange paint tray is on the floor near the stool. A window is visible on the right wall, and a light switch is on the wall near the woman. A black circle in the top right corner contains the text "Your Free Gift!".

*Your Free  
Gift!*

# **19 HACKS EVERYONE SHOULD TRY**

*By Latoya McKenzie*

These hacks utilize everyday items you typically find in your pantry, bathroom cabinet or dollar store. No fancy skills required. Just an open mind and a willingness to think outside the box.

This book was created for DIY fans just like you to help you take care of home or rental and prepare you for projects too small to call a repairman.

To learn more about LaKenzie Lease. visit [www.lakenzielease.com](http://www.lakenzielease.com)

# INTRODUCTION

When the little repairs are taken care of as soon as they pop up our living space becomes that much more enjoyable. The more a home is maintained the easier it is to maintain. Proactively learning how to make small repairs whether it's using home remedies or traditional methods is an important part of home ownership and maintenance.



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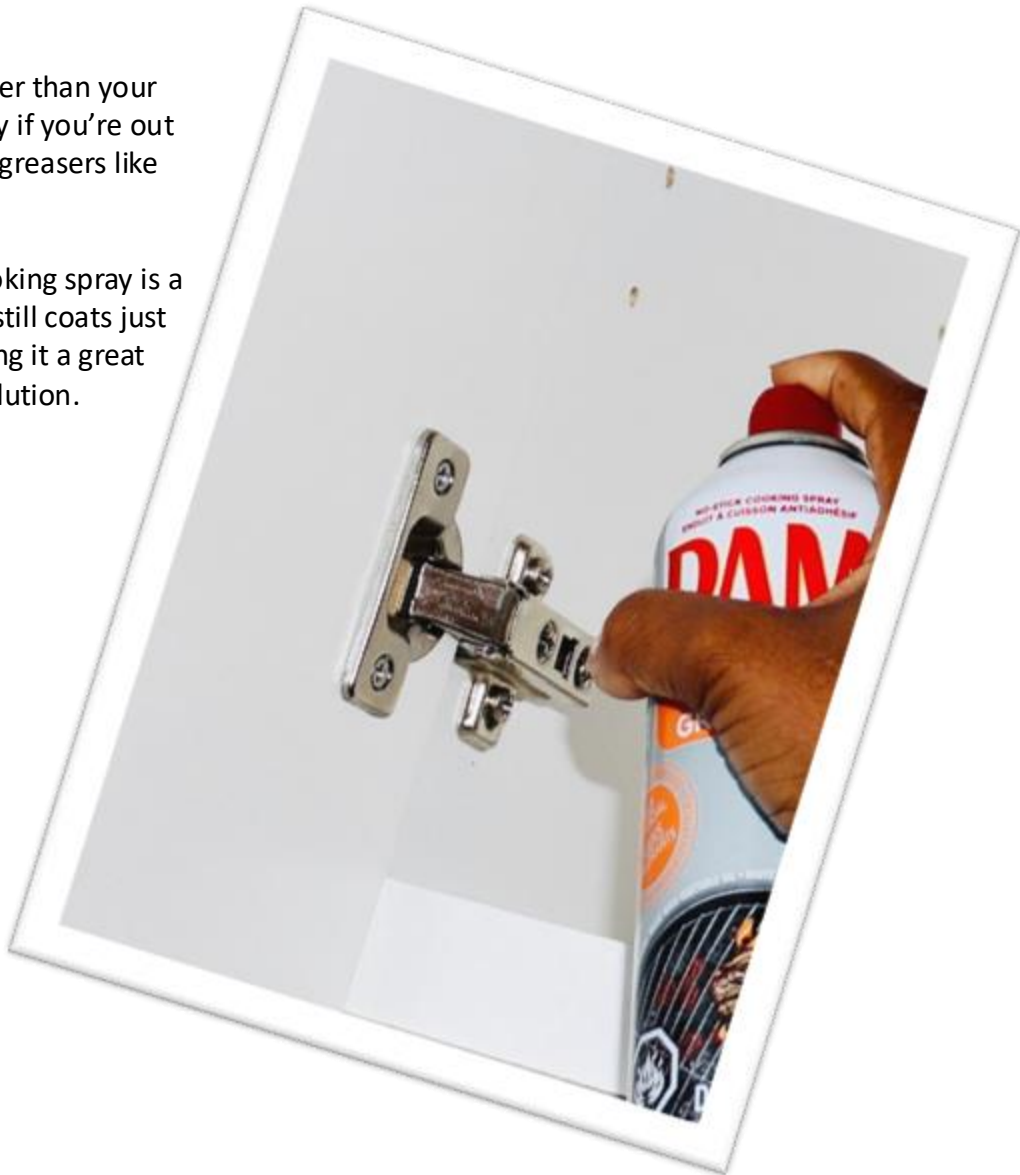


## GENERAL HACKS

# HOW TO FIX A SQUEAKY DOOR OR CABINET DOOR WITH REGULAR COOKING SPRAY

Look no further than your kitchen pantry if you're out of traditional greasers like WD-40.

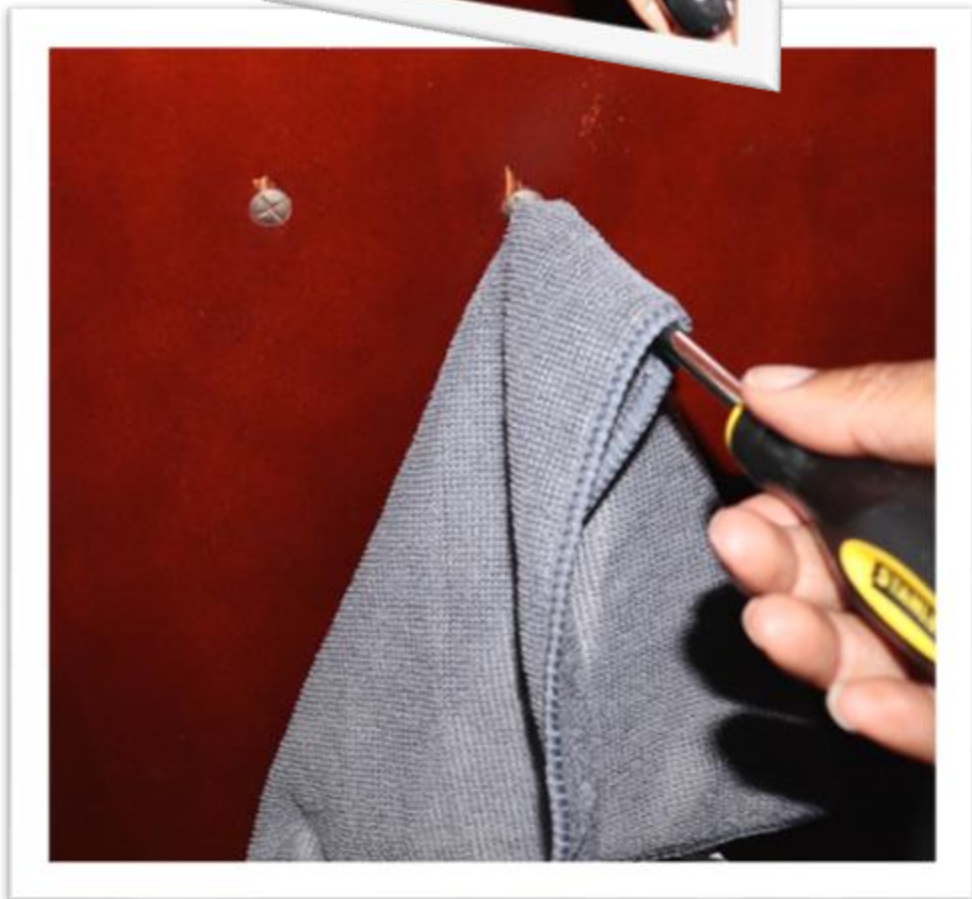
While the cooking spray is a bit thinner it still coats just as easy, making it a great temporary solution.



## HOW TO REMOVE A WORN-OUT SCREW

Place a thin cloth over the screw hole. Using a screwdriver unscrew the worn-out screw.

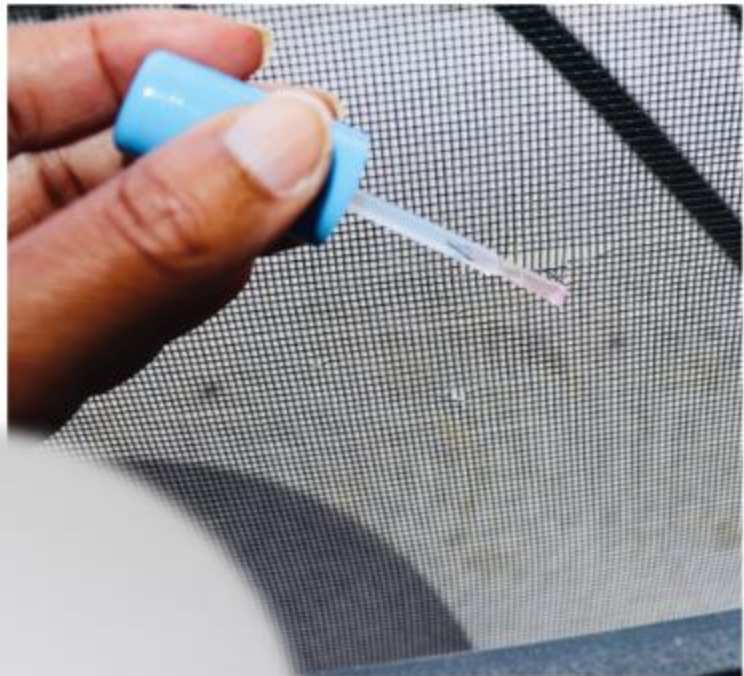
The cloth will create enough resistance to fill the hole to turn the screw.



## HOW TO PATCH UP TORN DOOR OR WINDOW SCREENS

If the tear is small enough, this trick might actually work.

Use clear nail hardener to fuse the two sides of the hole together for an invisible patch.



# HOW TO FILL SMALL DRYWALL PINHOLES

The cloth will create enough resistance to fill the hole to turn the screw. Sometimes nail holes from hanging picture frames are too small for patching and painting.

Try filling it with a crayon of the same colour instead. Press the crayon with enough pressure to fill the tiny then wipe the excess away.



# HOW TO CAULK A VANITY OR BATHTUB PERFECTLY

After removing the old caulking, apply painter's tape above and below the area you want a clean line of caulking. Once the caulking is applied remove the painter's tape for clean straight lines.



## HOW TO PREVENT A DOOR FROM CLOSING TOO HARD

Apply a cabinet door bumper where the door meets the frame. When the door closes the bumper should soften the close. If necessary, add a bumper on top of a bumper.



## HOW TO REMOVE WALLPAPER

People often leave wallpaper in place because it can be so difficult to remove.

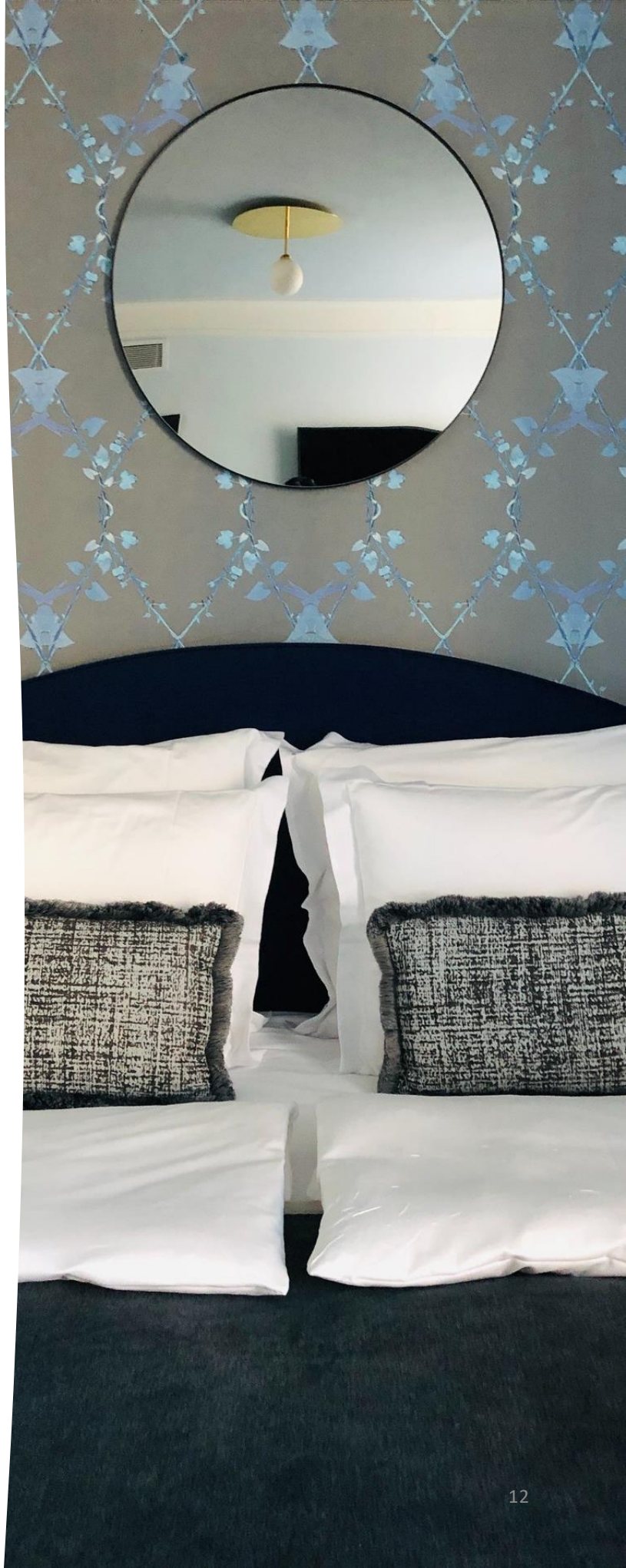
In a bowl mix equal parts water and vinegar.

Use a paint brush to apply the mixture over the wallpaper. Give it a minute, then start rolling the wallpaper down from the edges.

## HOW TO SEAL WALLPAPER SEAMS

Wallpaper peeling at the seams is unsightly. For a quick fix, all it will take is a warm wet cloth.

Take the wet cloth and apply pressure to the area of the lifting paper. This will help open the seams more. Lift the seams and then apply sealant or glue under the wallpaper edges.



# HOW TO TIGHTEN A LOOSE TOILET PAPER HOLDER

A toilet paper holder is bound to come loose at some point. Most of us avoid this small repair because you can't actually see where to tighten the screw. The screw, is almost always underneath the toilet paper holder.

The screw will also most likely be a smaller than average size. All you need is a screwdriver and a flexible arm.

Hold the toilet paper holder in the desired position while tightening the screw from underneath.



## HOW TO CLEAR SHOWER HEAD CLOGGED FROM HARD WATER



Pour vinegar in a Ziplock baggie. In this method you don't need to take the shower head off. Just put the baggie up to the shower head so that it is completely immersed in vinegar. Tape the bag around the neck of the shower head and leave overnight.

Alternatively use a bucket or bowl to mix vinegar and water. Remove the shower head and leave it to soak in the mixture overnight.

# HOW TO GET RID OF BAD SMELLS FROM KITCHEN DRAINS



This is a tip for bad odors coming from kitchen pipes due to old food particles built up over time.

Mix  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of vinegar and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of baking soda and pour down the drain. This will most certainly do the trick. To prevent this issue from reoccurring repeat this process a few times each month.

## **HOW TO UNSCREW A BROKEN LIGHT BULB**

Note that there must be enough glass left in the bulb for this to work. Using a potato or apple, carefully apply pressure over the broken bulb. Twist the potato or apple to remove the broken bulb.

## PLUMBING HACKS

# HOW TO CLEAR CLOGGED DRAINS

The obvious solution is to try a store-bought drain cleaner. However, sometimes traditional methods do not give us the desired results.

## BOILING WATER

For tough blockages, pour boiling water down the drain. This is only recommended for kitchen sinks or bathroom vanity sinks. Mix the boiling water with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of baking soda and pour. Wait 5 - 10 minutes.

Next, pour a cup of vinegar down the drain then wait another 5 – 10 minutes. This should clear up most clogs at this point. Just remember to follow up these steps with warm water.

## COAT HANGER

Note that this method is only recommended if you have a better than average understanding of plumbing. Start by straightening out a wire hanger. Straightened out, it will not be the same length as plumber's snake but it's a great homemade alternative. Use this method wisely as it can leave scratches in your sink or toilet bowl.

Push the hanger down to the blockage and to the best of your ability pull up pieces of the blockage. Do this until you think the pipes are clear.

# HOW TO UNCLOG A TOILET WITHOUT A PLUNGER

This method works depending on what's causing the clog. Squeeze a bit of liquid dish soap in the bowl. About  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup will do depending on the conditions. The soap helps whatever is causing the clog to slide free so give it a minute to settle.

Next add hot water to the bowl. Do not add boiling water. Water at boiling temperature may damage your toilet. Try pouring the water into the bowl from a height that will cause the soap liquid to form bubbles. This will also help the blockage to clear. Last step is to flush.

# HOW TO FIND YOUR EMERGENCY SHUT-OFF VALVES

This is a need to know in case of a leak that won't quit. If you have a toilet that is leaking water, a washer machine or dishwasher that is overflowing or especially a leak where you cannot find the source, knowing where the emergency shut off valve is will limit damages and save you money in unnecessary repairs.

To find your emergency shut off valve check under your vanity sink and or kitchen sink. There is also a shut-off valve for your laundry machine where the hose connects to the plumbing behind the drywall. Your toilet will also have a shut-off valve underneath.



# HOW TO TEST FOR A RUNNY TOILET

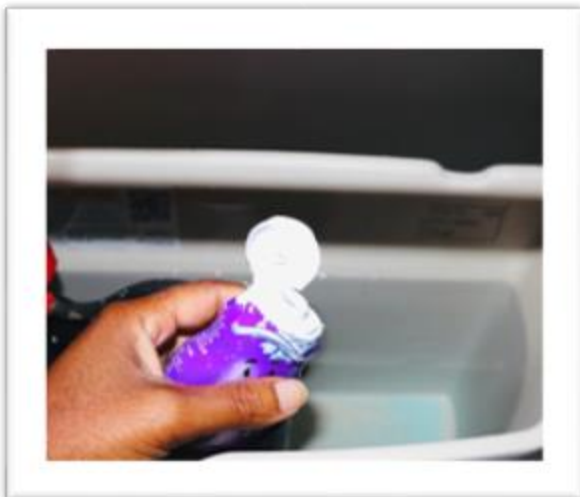
This can be a challenge even for the experienced do-it-yourselfer.

There's 2 ways to know you have a leak, a higher than usual water bill or visible signs of water continuous leaking into the bowl.

This hack is for the leak that is not visible, but yet you suspect the toilet is constantly running or pumping water without cause.

If you are in this situation start by pouring a little of Kool-Aid into your toilet tank. We do not recommend using any colourant that could possibly stain your toilet bowl permanently.

Do not flush your toilet after this step. Check the toilet bowl every 10 – 30 minutes. If the bowl has coloured water without a flush, you have confirmed your leak.



# HOW TO TEMPORARILY FIX A PIPE LEAK

A leak is one of the most common household issues and one that should never be ignored. Eventually the drip leads to a higher water bill or even damage. These hacks only minimize the leak but does not actually stop it.

## DUCT TAPE

Wrap duct tape around the source of the leak until a plumber can permanently resolve the issue. If it's more than just a slow drip, then wrap the pipe with a cloth before wrapping it with duct tape. If all else fails place a bowl or bucket under the pipe for good measure.

## SILICONE

If you have silicone on hand, use it. First, make sure the pipe you are working on is empty and the area is dry. Apply the silicone and allow time to dry before reconnecting the water.

