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\$1 Store Solutions

1: Scratched Bench Tops

At Independent Property Inspectors, we love to find and share inexpensive solutions to household problems. Our five solutions this week—one a day—don't even require a trip to your local hardware store—not that we don't love stocking up at Bunning's or Mitre 10. Instead, pay a call to your \$1 store. Its aisles are crammed with the inexpensive (and multipurpose) wares to fix what's ailing.



A crayon, a spatula knife, and a bowl are all you need to fix a bench top scratch.

Just watch out for the impulse to buy more than you intended at the \$1 store. In all honesty, we couldn't.

First up on the home repair list: Scuff marks on bench tops.

If you've ever had a scuff mark on a coloured bench top, you know that it sadly becomes the room's focal point. But we found the right supplies to save you any embarrassment.

Supplies:

- Crayons, \$1
- Spatula knife, \$1

- A microwave-safe bowl, \$1 (If you have one you're willing to sacrifice to melt crayons, you just saved another \$1.)

Total: \$3. \$4 if you throw in a lemonade-type drink.

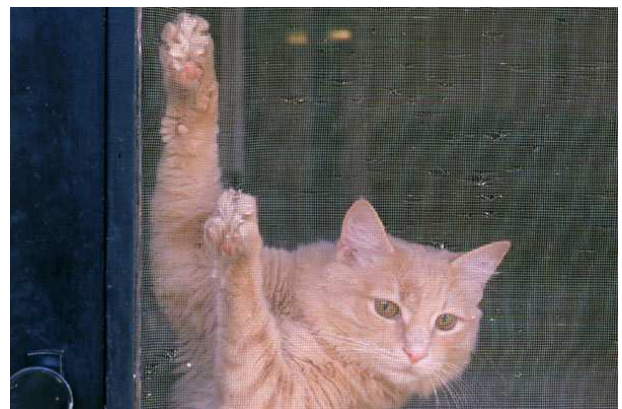
What you do:

- Pick the Crayon whose colour comes closest to matching your bench top. Peel off the paper and place it in the bowl.
- Pop the crayon and bowl in the microwave.
- Pour the hot, melted crayon onto the scuff mark and work it into the indentation with the spatula knife.
- Scrape off the excess with the spatula knife.

The Crayon mixture will harden and dry quickly, erasing your bench top flaw.

2: Torn Window Screen

Yesterday, we shared our discovery of the \$1 store as a practical resource for home improvement supplies. We repaired a scuff mark on a bench top for less than \$3. Today, we're going to get rid of one of life's greatest annoyances for less than \$2.



Torn screens are a nuisance, but an easy solution can be found for under \$2.

Among life's greatest annoyances:

- An empty carton of milk in the fridge

- A flat tire
- A torn window screen. That tiny hole is just the invitation bugs need to break in.

No need for a handyman or a replacement screen. You'll find the right bug deterrent at the \$1 store, if it's not already on hand in your bathroom cabinet. But going to the dollar store is fun

Supplies:

- Clear nail polish, \$1
- Total: \$1

What you do:

- Apply the clear nail polish on both sides of the torn area. Slather it on so it builds up a nice barrier.
- Watch it dry transparently.

3: Loose Cabinet Hinge

Yesterday we showed you how to handily repair a torn window screen for \$1. But back to reality.



A loose cabinet door can be fixed with just \$3 and a trip to the dollar store

If one of your kitchen cabinets is hanging on for dear life thanks to all the opening, closing, and slamming it endures (you probably have teenagers or a husband), you can fix that loose hinge in a very MacGyver kind of way.

Supplies:

- Wooden matches, \$1
- Wood glue, \$1
- Hammer, \$1

Total: \$3

What you do:

- Remove the cabinet hinge screw.
- Dab wood glue on a match and stick it into the screw holes.
- Tap it in with the hammer.
- Break off the match part that's sticking out.
- Let the glue dry for about 4 hours.
- Twist the screw back into place. The match piece will create a new solid base for the screw.

4: Fix a Stripped Screw

Yesterday, we tightened a loose cabinet hinge for less than three bucks. Today's tip is the most inexpensive of our series. The turn of the screw is ... a pain in your neck if it's stripped.



A stripped screw isn't necessarily bound for the trash can—a quick fix can be done on the cheap

Supplies:

- Hacksaw, \$1

Total: \$1

What you do:

- Use the hacksaw to cut into the top of the stripped screw to create a new groove for the screwdriver.

To find out more and get your home inspected call your local independent property inspector on **1800 17 88 22** or email info@ipi.net.au

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