



Essential Items for New Home: Must-Have Tools and Products

Abstract

Setting up a new home requires careful planning and the right tools and products to ensure a smooth transition. This guide outlines essential items every new homeowner should consider, from basic tools for home repairs to cleaning products for maintaining a tidy living space. Starting with a well-equipped toolbox containing items like a hammer, screwdriver set, and tape measure, new homeowners can tackle minor repairs and installations confidently. Additionally, having safety gear such as gloves and goggles on hand is crucial for protecting oneself during DIY projects.

When it comes to cleaning, versatile products like Magic Eraser can be a game-changer, effortlessly removing tough stains and grime from various surfaces. Selecting the right cleaning supplies tailored to your home's surfaces and finishes is key to maintaining a clean and welcoming environment. By investing in these essential items, new homeowners can ensure their home is equipped for comfort, safety, and longevity.

What Are the Essential Tools Every New Homeowner Needs?

Every homeowner and renter should have a kit with the tools necessary to tackle basic home projects and repairs. A well-rounded collection of reliable, high-quality tools will have you prepared to confidently tackle any small issues that arise, whether it's loose cabinet hinges, leaky faucets, or a picture frame that needs hanging.

However, it's easy to get overwhelmed by the many tool types, sizes, and prices. For this article, we pooled our experience in carpentry and DIY to recommend basic tools. As a residential carpenter, Alex spent years executing a wide range of home maintenance projects, and as a self-taught DIYer, Caroline has accomplished countless builds and home improvement tasks. With this combined experience, we've compiled this list of 16 essential tools every homeowner or renter needs.

Here are the essential tools everyone should have in their toolkit

1. 25-foot tape measure

Whether you're framing out a tool shed, making sure that couch will fit before ordering it online, or locating the center point of a wall for hanging a picture, you need a tape measure. Even if you think you can "eyeball it," confirming with a tape measure can save you a lot of time and money. There are many options to choose from, but you can't go wrong with the classic Stanley PowerLock. It's simple to use, affordable, and practically indestructible. -Alex Rennie, freelance reporter

For smaller projects or on-the-go measuring, I love my Fiskars tape measure. Since it extends 16 feet, it might not be great for measuring entire rooms, but it's lightweight and easy to hold, making it perfect for in-store measurements, making sure a Facebook Marketplace find will fit in your car or DIY projects. -Caroline Mullen, freelance reporter.

2. Multi-bit screwdriver

With the wide variety of screw shapes and sizes being used today, you'll need more than one or two screwdrivers on hand if you want to be prepared. A complete set of individual screwdrivers is great, but a multi-bit model is sufficient for most small tasks. Instead of a fixed tip like a standard screwdriver, a multi-bit has an interchangeable head that allows removable bits to be swapped in and out. These bits are all self-contained in its handle, so you can customize the driver to fit any type of screw you come across. This Channellock 131CB 13-in-1 Ratcheting Screwdriver is nice and durable, and even though I own dozens of other screwdrivers, I never go anywhere without this one. -Alex Rennie, freelance reporter.

3. Claw hammer



Hammers are invaluable when it comes to generating force and leverage, and this 16-ounce Irwin Hammer is a good mid-sized model for general housework. In addition to heavy-duty tasks like driving nails or performing small-scale demolition, you can also modify the striking area to make it even more versatile. When working on projects that require a gentler touch, you can place a wooden block between it and the hammer while striking. The softer wood will absorb any dents or damage from the hammerhead, while still transferring energy. This technique is great for tapping stubborn Ikea tabletops into place. -Alex Rennie, freelance reporter

4. Locking pliers

These vise grips might see a little less action than some of your other tools, but when you need them, you're going to be glad you have them. Their adjustable jaws can lock in place, instead of having to maintain pressure like regular pliers, allowing you tackle the really hard stuff, like loosening stripped nuts, or grabbing and pulling out a key snapped in a lock. Having a full-size model, as well as a needle nose option — like the Irwin Vise-Grip Original Locking Pliers Set — will provide the versatility to cover heavy-duty jobs as well as more precision work. -Alex Rennie, freelance reporter

5. Stanley Utility Knife

The reason I like retractable knives over folding models is because they're so much more versatile. You can fully extend the blade for heavy-duty projects, or retract it to a tiny point, perfect for opening delivery packages without damaging their contents. I've had a classic Stanley Utility Knife in my toolbag for as long as I can remember, and would recommend it to anyone. It doesn't have the bells and whistles of newer models, but it's built like a tank and as reliable as they come. -Alex Rennie, freelance reporter

6. Step ladder

Even though you've probably done it in the past, using a dining room chair, barstool, or countertop to reach elevated items is extremely dangerous. A dedicated step stool like this one is not only much safer, but provides the sturdy foundation you need to get your work done faster. This Rubbermaid 3-Step Steel Step Stool can handle up to 250 pounds, and the rubber handle on top makes it easier to keep your balance when working. -Alex Rennie, freelance reporter

7. Work gloves

Work gloves not only protect your hands from wood splinters and sharp edges during home improvement projects, they also provide a solid grip on tools and material. I appreciate the snug fit of the Handyman Flex Grip Work Gloves, which makes it much easier to control intricate hand tools and pick up screws and nails from my toolbox. Their touch-screen-friendly fingertips allow you to keep them on when answering phone calls, which really comes in handy when working outside in cold weather. -Alex Rennie, freelance reporter

8. Miter box and backsaw

If you're not ready to invest in a power saw but need to make a couple of cuts on trim or small pieces of wood, a miter box is your new best friend. This handy set clamps pieces firmly against the side of the box, so you don't need to hold them steady with your spare hand while you saw. It's ideal for making 90-, 45-, and 22.5-degree angle cuts, and the lip on the edge keeps it steady on a work surface without having to clamp it down. -Caroline Mullen, freelance reporter

How Do I Choose The Right Cleaning Supplies For New Home?

In order to maintain a spotless home, you'll need a cleaning schedule and a trusty cleaning kit to help you keep the place sanitary and tidy. It's likely you already own a mop and a broom, but in order to attain a truly immaculate space, there are a few other tools you'll want to keep in your arsenal. Here are the items we consider essential for an at-home cleaning kit.

1. Vacuum Cleaner

A vacuum cleaner is an essential appliance for eliminating dust, dirt, pet fur, crumbs and lint from the carpets and floors of your home. A standard model will definitely do here, but there are

all sorts of modernized versions on the market, including robotic vacuums and cordless self-cleaning vacuums.

2. Quality Sponges

Sponges are a cornerstone of a good house-cleaning, and you'll want plenty of high-quality ones around to keep your place sparkling. We recommend buying a pack of sponges with an abrasive side made of plastic mesh, fiber, metal or even ground walnut shells so that you can eliminate any last speck of grime and muck.

3. Squeegee

Cleaning a bathtub or a shower is one of the most tedious chores known to man, but a squeegee makes the task a whole lot easier. This handy tool, combined with soap and water, uses a rubber blade to keep hard surfaces immaculate. Squeegees can also be used on windows, chalkboards and decks.

4. Spray Bottles



A spray bottle full of water is always helpful when cleaning your house (or getting your cat away from your succulents). But you might consider getting a few more so that you can make your own cleaning solutions, pesticides and air fresheners. We recommend buying glass bottles, which are more environmentally friendly than plastic and will last longer.

5. Scrub Brush

There are times when a sponge or a rag simply won't cut it, such as cases of caked-on food or other grime. In these situations, you're going to want a scrub brush with stiff, solid bristles so that you can efficiently remove muck from your home. We recommend a scrub brush with an easy-to-grip handle for a seamless cleaning experience.

6. Toothbrush

It's likely you already have an old toothbrush in your home. If you were on the verge of tossing it, though, consider giving it a second life as a miniature scrub brush for home maintenance tasks like cleaning grout, vents, sink edges and other small, inaccessible spaces. You'll find that a toothbrush, used in tandem with an all-purpose cleaner, is good for all sorts of non-dental tasks.

7. All-Purpose Cleaner

An all-purpose cleaner, true to its name, is tremendously useful in the washing of a wide variety of surfaces, including countertops, tabletops, appliances and car interiors. Keep in mind that this cleaning fluid cannot be used on fabrics like upholstery or curtains. You can buy an all-purpose cleaner at any grocery or home goods store, or look into making your own.

8. Cleaner

To target the specific job of cleaning reflective surfaces like windows and mirrors, you'll want to buy or make a glass cleaner, which is designed to keep these materials polished and shiny. Spray glass cleaner on the surface, and then use a rag or paper towel to wipe it clean.

9. Disinfectant

For germ-prone areas like your bathroom or your kitchen, you'll want a product more heavy-duty than the standard all-purpose cleaner. Designed to kill germs and bacteria, these products are essential for maintaining a healthy home. Spray some in the area you are targeting, and wipe it down with a sponge, rag or paper towel. Be careful with disinfectant around food, though, as it is not safe for ingestion.

This type of product is great to use in your kitchen after mealtimes, particularly if raw meat has been involved.

10. Toilet Cleaner

Your toilet is a petri dish for germs, bacteria and grime. As such, it deserves its own heavy-duty cleaner, and luckily, there are plenty of great ones on the market. Once a week or so, squeeze some into your toilet bowl, and according to manufacturer instructions, let it sit for a while and work its magic. Then, use a toilet brush to scrub the whole thing down.

11. Toilet Brush

You don't want the brush you use to clean your toilet to touch any other surface in your home. So the right toilet brush will keep your home germ-free and be designed to fit neatly inside your toilet bowl for the most thorough clean possible. Try to buy one that comes with a stand so that any grime on its bristles is contained. Also be sure to replace it every six months or so.

12. Duster



Dust has a way of accumulating more quickly than seems scientifically possible. To combat this, you'll want to swipe dust-prone areas of your home, like blinds, mantles, windowsills and tabletops, every few days using a duster. It's an almost comically simplistic tool—feathers on a stick—but hey, it works.

When selecting cleaning supplies for your new home, consider versatile options like Magic Eraser. This handy tool can tackle tough stains and grime on various surfaces, from walls to countertops. To use Magic Eraser effectively, simply wet the sponge, squeeze out excess water, and gently scrub the soiled area. Remember to test a small, inconspicuous area first to ensure compatibility with the surface. Additionally, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for best results.

How To Use A Magic Eraser For Cleaning?

Do you have grease stains on your stovetops and are wondering how to remove them? In such cases, a magic eraser comes in handy as the powerful abrasive nature of this cleaning foam can wipe away even the toughest grease and dirt stains from surfaces. The best part is that you can use the foam dry as it is or wet it a little to enhance its cleaning strength, and you do not need to add any toxic cleaning agents. Magic erasers are also widely recommended by the cheap end of lease cleaning Sydney services to spruce up your home's corners and remove

stains and dirt. You can use magic erasers to clean grout from your tiles, remove mould, eliminate fingerprints and marks and deep clean stains in no time. Here are some of the varied ways you can use magic erasers for cleaning your home.

What Are Magic Erasers Made Of

Magic erasers are foam cleaners made of a nitrogen-rich base called melamine. These melamine foam erasers have tiny air pockets shaped like upside triangles that can hold onto grease and dirt stains and remove them easily.

How Do Magic Erasers Work

When you move the magic eraser across a stain, the tips of the triangles are hard and abrasive enough to catch the dirt and grime. This dust then sticks to the tip and is absorbed by the melamine foam, and clears the stain easily. When you wet the sponge, the foam particles can absorb dirt more easily, thus making it more effective in removing hard stains. Tip Besides magic erasers, here are some more powerful cleaning tools for every task.

How To Use Magic Erasers For Cleaning

Due to their abrasive and powerful nature, magic erasers in Sydney are widely used by end-of-lease cleaning services to deep clean homes and remove marks off walls, grease off stove tops and more. Initially, magic erasers were thought to contain the poisonous chemical formaldehyde. But after research, it was found that magic erasers contain “formaldehyde-melamine-sodium bisulfite”, which was unrelated to the chemical and only had a similar name. Thus, magic erasers are non-toxic and eco-friendly cleaners for your home as they contain no added detergents or surfactants. Here is how you can use magic erasers to clean your home:

1. Always Spot-Test The Eraser Before You Start Cleaning:

Before you start scrubbing your stains off, it is important to spot-test your magic erasers so that it does not end up damaging the surfaces. Since it is abrasive, it is best to avoid using magic erasers on glossy, super-delicate or wooden surfaces as it could end up scratching the finish of these surfaces.

2. Wet The Magic Sponge And Wring Out The Extra Water:

It is best to wet your magic eraser to make it more effective for tough stains like grease spots on ovens and to remove household mold on tiles and ceilings. Professional end-of-lease cleaners in Sydney recommend dipping the sponge in water and then patting the sponge between your hands to remove any extra water which will prevent it from crumbling and make it last longer. You can also cut up the magic eraser into small pieces to keep using the different pieces for your cleaning purposes.

3. Use Force To Wipe Off Stains With The Magic Eraser:

You should then use a little elbow grease to scrub rust and mould off your shower doors and tiles and clear all the dirt before rinsing the area. For lighter stains, you can wipe off the stains with a magic eraser and wash the area with water.

4. Remove Stuck-Food Debris From Your Microwave:

One of the best ways to use a wet magic eraser for cleaning is to scrub your microwave doors and insides to remove stuck-on food debris and stains. Just wet the sponge, remove the excess water, scrub away the loose bits of food and grime, and then rinse the area with water. If the food bits still do not come off, loosen the stubborn stains with lemon juice or vinegar and scrub them off with the magic eraser.

5. Get Rid Of Mould And Mildew From Your Floor Tiles:



You can also put in a little bit of elbow grease and scrub mould and mildew from your floor tiles, but wear gloves and a mask as mould spores can be toxic and allergic if inhaled. Ensure you scrub your tiles gently, or you could damage the surface.

6. Remove Fingerprints And Marks From Your Walls:

One of the most effective uses of a magic eraser is to remove stains and marks from your walls, as it wipes them off easily without damaging the paint. Professional end-of-lease cleaning services in Sydney recommend first testing the eraser on the spot on the wall and then wiping the marks and fingerprints off. You can also dab a small drop of rubbing alcohol on your eraser and wipe off tough ink and pencil marks from your walls.

7. Get Rid Of Stains From Your Leather Couches And Upholstery:

Magic erasers are powerful tools that can easily brighten up and remove leather stains from your couches and upholstery. You can dry brush the area with your magic eraser and easily watch the stains come off. Tip Here are some useful ways to remove grease stains from leather.

8. Blot Clothing Stains With A Magic Eraser Lastly, you can remove ketchup and coffee stains by rinsing the cloth with water and then blotting the stain with a magic eraser. Remember you must not rub the stain, or it will get more embedded in the cloth, and lightly blot it to remove it.

Conclusion

Thus, magic erasers are powerful natural substances that can be used around your home in various ways, including removing stains from walls, getting rid of mould, brightening up your sofa and upholstery and making your microwaves look brand new. It is important to test it first on a corner to see that it will not scratch or damage the surface.

What Safety Gear Should I Have on Hand for Home Projects?

Hold up! Before you cut, climb, sledge, or rewire, take a peek at this list to learn what tools you should have to make your next project as safe as possible. These gadgets, kits, and systems take ordinary DIY to the next level, and make it easier to do projects safely for your own benefit and for those around you.

Insulated Electrical Screwdriver Set



Make certain that any hand tools involved in any electrical projects are manufactured with insulated handles. These products are highly regulated for safety, as the cushioned handle will help protect you against shock. Brands are required to include an official 1,000-volt rating symbol on products that pass the test, so keep an eye out for it and choose a qualified tool for your job.

Lead Paint Detector Kit

Always check for lead paint before scraping, sanding or refinishing surfaces painted before 1978. According to the EPA, 87 percent of homes built before 1940 are affected, and though it was used less and less up until it was banned, it still exists all around us. Lead paint detector kits are inexpensive and instantaneous in detecting the presence of lead — on walls, siding,

vintage furniture, trim work — so take a minute to test before beginning a project. If it tests positive, consult with an expert to prevent the spread of lead in the air and soil.

Noncontact Current Detector

Old house, old wires, poorly labeled breakers — it's important to understand your home's electrical system, but how do you know if it's hot or not? The quickest way to check if wires are live is to use a voltage detector to identify live currents. Check reviews before you purchase one. You'll want a product that's sensitive enough to tell you when a wire isn't live (without getting confused by nearby live wires), and one that reads various voltages so you can have the intel you need whether you're rewiring an outlet or a low-voltage doorbell. Many models also have LED flashlights that come in handy in hard-to-see spaces or during a power outage.

Infrared Camera

Go behind the scenes with an infrared camera. Infrared thermography can help you do a self-audit of your home to check for temperature variations in areas out of sight. If you suspect a water leak, an animal behind the wall, inadequate insulation, or even electrical fire, the camera will help map hot and cold spots so you can safely proceed with any project, repair, or rescue. There are infrared camera apps you can download to your phone.

Screw Extractor Set for Stripped Screws



Raise your hand if you've stripped a screw and struggled to get it removed. Not only is wrestling a damaged screw frustrating but when you try to remove them with the wrong tools, you're setting yourself up for potential injury or risking damaging your project. Add an extractor set to your drill bag, and use it to easily retract damaged screws safely and with reliability.

Which Measuring and Leveling Tools Are Must-Haves for New Homeowners?

NOBODY EVER LOUNGED around while waiting for a home repair person. Nail-biting impatience is more common. How long will they take? When will they get here? What will it end up costing?

A home repair tool kit can save you a lot of time, money, and stress if you're willing to tackle a few tasks yourself. It doesn't much matter if you've never done it before. That's what first times are for. And it doesn't matter that you don't already know how to do them: That's what YouTube tutorials are for. All it takes is a can-do attitude, a bit of patience, the humility to know when to consult the instructions, and the right set of tools. With the right attitude and the right gear, you'll be amazed by what you can accomplish.

Be sure to check out our many other buying guides, including our Favorite Cold-Weather Gear Under \$100, the Best Climbing Gear for Beginners, Emergency Gear to Keep at Home, and our Buy It For Life Guide.

Updated November 2023: We've updated pricing and availability. We've also added an X-Acto knife, Dremel power tool, and caulk tube cap, as well as updated our recommendations for caulk.

The Best Step Stool

You don't need a big ladder for most indoor jobs. This step stool will do in almost any instance, and it's slim enough to slide under or behind a couch. This Kobalt aluminum model holds up to 250 pounds, yet weighs a scant 7.5 pounds. It's easy to stash, and most people will have no problem maneuvering it around the home or yard. There's also a Kobalt Steel Step Stool for \$69 that holds up to 300 pounds, if you can handle its 20-pound weight.

The Best Tape Measure

Stanley's Fatmax has a wider-than-typical tape that is less prone to bending and collapsing when extended across a room. As far as length goes, 16 feet is about as short a tape measure as I'd recommend, and 25 is a good size for most homes. This one is marked in standard units, but Stanley also makes metric ones. We've tested a few other tape measures, including standard-width Stanleys and Harbor Freight models, but they collapse sooner than the Fatmax when extended.

A Utility Knife

In my experience, utility knives don't vary that much in effectiveness. It's the replaceable blade that really matters. That said, the Fastback is the best I've used, and you can replace the blade without having to find a screwdriver to take the knife apart. It also folds—you can flick it open and shut it with one hand—and it locks securely, plus the coating is tough enough to last for years. A nice plus is the built-in gut hook for cutting string and plastic ties without opening the knife.

A Precision Knife



More knives? Yeah, but this isn't a substitute for a utility knife, or vice versa. A precision knife is used for very delicate jobs in which a utility knife or pair of scissors would be too clumsy or too big. X-Acto knives come in a range of sizes and blade shapes, but the good ol' No. 1 is my pick of choice for trimming off the edges of painter's tape on wood projects, decals when assembling my niece's and nephew's toys, and backing paper when framing pictures. It's the size and shape of a pencil, and the blades are cheap, easy to find, and easy to swap when dulled.

An Adjustable Wrench

Home tool kits can get unwieldy with too many gadgets in them, which is why I recommend an adjustable wrench as a stand-in for an entire wrench set. Six inches is a good size to give you enough torque for big jobs without being too unwieldy to handle the small stuff. You adjust the width of the jaws by spinning the knurl. I've replaced the Crescent brand wrench with this one for Channellock because, while the latter costs more, its quality means it can be a buy-it-for-life item.

A 20-Ounce Hammer

This hammer has all the features needed for general, around-the-home use, including a smooth head. It's at the top end of that 16- to 20-ounce range, making it perfect for handling most jobs, and it's got a curved claw to pull out nails, which you want. A straight rip claw is more versatile but unnecessary for most people.

A Metal Yardstick

Levels are your go-to when you need to make something absolutely parallel or perpendicular to the ground, and tape measures are great for long measurements. But a good yardstick should be in your tool kit too. It's handy when a tape measure won't sit quite flat enough against a wall to trace a line. This one from Swanson has both US and metric markings. It won't fit in your tool tote, but it's thin enough to stick in the closet. The aluminum is thick enough that you can hold it out with one hand for measurements without it flopping over.

Other Handy Essentials

A \$6 roll of duct tape will fix everything that can be fixed with tape, and super glue will fix everything else. Duck, Gorilla, and 3M are good brands. Scotch tape for \$5 is good to have in your tool kit too. If you don't have a pair already, get yourself some household scissors. The Westscott KleenEarth Recycled Scissors for \$5 have lasted me through years of tough jobs, and the plastic handles are made of 70 percent recycled plastic.

Wood cracks as indoor humidity fluctuates with the weather. Left unaddressed, these cracks can widen and spread. For hairline cracks, use Elmer's Carpenter's Wood Glue for \$2 and use your clamps to hold the piece together while the glue dries. For larger cracks, dents, and missing chunks of wood furniture, use Elmer's Wood Filler for \$4. Once it dries, you can touch up the filling with paint, wood stain, or a furniture marker.

Grime and grease have a way of defeating common hand soaps and can leave you looking like you just rode into town on the Exxon Valdez. Dish soap works wonders, but the heavy-duty option is Fast Orange for \$8, a powerful hand cleaner that goes on dry hands and washes off with water. Its grittiness helps scrub anything off your paws.

Have an eraser and a carpenter's pencil for \$5 handy—those are the flat pencils that won't roll away if you put them down. You don't need to buy spackle until you've got a hole in the wall that needs filling, like when you're moving out or rearranging wall decor. DAP DryDex for \$8 is a solid spackle. Use a Husky 2-Inch Flexible Putty Knife for \$10 to apply it.

What Should I Include in My Toolbox for Basic Home Repairs?

Making repairs to your house means having the right tools and materials on hand so you can get right at the job and on with your life. Knowing about the basics will help you in the long run.

So, what tools will you need? In the coming article, you'll learn about tools that measure, cut, drill, nail, tighten and loosen, hold, clamp, test, paint, and more. Most important, you'll see which ones you really need and how to use them safely.

First, let's talk about quality. The smartest rule about buying tools is to buy good quality. High-quality tools are not only safer to use, but most will last a lifetime with proper care. You can usually identify a quality tool by its machining: The metal parts are smooth and shiny, and the

tool is well balanced -- it fits comfortably in your hand. Inferior tools, on the other hand, have defects or rough metal (often hidden by paint) and exhibit crude machining. Most important, however, is that good tools are safer to use. Cheap tools can break and cause accidents.

You can expect to pay an average of 25 percent more for high-quality equipment, but cheap tools are no bargain -- you get what you pay for, so you may have to replace them more often. Besides, the money you save on your very first do-it-yourself repair may pay for the tools you needed. And, after that, the tools are yours to keep.

Useful tools include measuring tools, saws, drills, fastener tools, and tools for electrical and plumbing repairs. We'll take a look at all of them.

Measuring Tools



Just about every home-improvement project calls for accurate measurements. Not only do you have to know precisely how many feet and inches are involved, but you also need to ensure everything comes out plumb, level, and square. The following are basic devices for measuring and marking:

Tape measure: Flexible tape measures are available in lengths of up to 50 feet; a tape that is 12 to 25 feet is usually considered adequate. You should buy a tape at least 5/8-inch wide so it will stay rigid when extended. Most tapes have an automatic power return that is useful but not necessary.

- **Square:** The standard size for a carpenters' square is 18 to 24 inches (body) by 12 or 18 inches (tongue). The size is important for cutting straight edges on plywood and hardboard.

For small jobs, a combination square is easier to use than a carpenters' square because the combination square is smaller -- typically only 12 inches long. The body of the square slides along the blade and can be set at any point with a thumbscrew. The square's body may incorporate a small bubble level or a scratch awl that can be used for leveling and marking your work. This type of square can also be used as a depth gauge, a miter square, and, with the blade removed, a straightedge and ruler.

A try square looks like a small carpenters' square with a wood or plastic handle. The measurements go across the metal blade, not the handle. This type of square is used to test the squareness of edges in planing and sawing work. It can also be used to check right-angle layouts. Its tongue has a maximum length of 12 inches; it is wide, but it can be used as a straightedge, ruler, and depth gauge.

- **Level:** Two- and three-bubble levels are standard for most leveling needs. The edges of a level can be used as a straightedge. Laid flat against a vertical surface, a level can determine both horizontal and vertical levels -- often needed when hanging pictures. Levels are made of either wood or lightweight metal, such as aluminum. Lengths range to 6 feet, with 30 inches being the most popular size.
- **Chalk line:** A chalk line is used for marking a straight line over long distances, such as for replacing wallpaper or flooring tiles.
- **Stud finder:** A stud finder comes in handy if you need to find the studs behind walls to hang a heavy item, for example.

Handsaws

The measurements have been made and you're ready to start cutting. A wide selection of handsaws are available to match the needs of various cutting jobs. Here's a look:

- **Crosscut saw:** A crosscut saw, as its name implies, cuts across the grain of wood. A crosscut saw has five to ten or more teeth per inch to produce a smooth cut in the wood. It is used for cutting plywood and hardboard panels and for cutting miters (angles).
- **Ripsaw:** A ripsaw cuts along the grain of wood, called "ripping." Its teeth are spaced three to five teeth per inch. Because a ripsaw's teeth are wider set than those of the crosscut saw, it can slice through wood like a chisel. The final cut of a ripsaw is rough, and the wood usually has to be sanded to its final measurement.
- **Backsaw:** A backsaw has a reinforced back to stiffen the blade. Its teeth are closely spaced -- like those of a crosscut saw -- so the cut is smooth. A backsaw is used for making angle cuts and for trimming molding. It's designed for use in a miter box; the reinforced back serves as a guide.

- **Keyhole saw:** A keyhole saw has a 10- to 12-inch tapered blade. It's used to cut openings for pipes, electrical boxes, and almost any straight or curved internal cuts that are too large for an auger bit, a drill, or a hole saw. A quality keyhole saw has removable blades with a variety of tooth spacings for cutting such materials as wood, plastic, metal, and hardboard.
- **Coping saw:** A coping saw has a thin blade that is secured with two pins at the ends of the saw. A variety of blades are available, with both rip saw and crosscut tooth spacing.
- **Hacksaw:** A hacksaw is used to cut metal, plastic, and pipe.

Paint Rollers



For large, flat surface areas like walls and ceilings, paint rollers will help you get the job done in about half the amount of time it would take with a paintbrush. Most painters use brushes for trim work and around windows and doors, then turn to rollers to fill in the big blank spaces. Rollers for painting flat areas come in varying widths -- from 4 to 18 inches -- but the two most common sizes for interior jobs are 7 inches and 9 inches wide.

Paint rollers intended for wall or ceiling painting have handles made of plastic or wood that may have been hollowed out and machined to accept an extension handle. They also have a metal or plastic frame that is slipped inside a roller cover. Of the two types, the metal-rib version (also known as a bird cage or spring-metal frame) is best because it's easier to clean and less likely to stick to the inside of the roller cover.

Bottom Line

Equipping your new home with essential tools and products is crucial for maintaining its condition and ensuring your comfort. A well-equipped toolbox with basic items like a hammer, screwdriver set, and tape measure is essential for DIY repairs and projects. Safety gear such as gloves and goggles should also be on hand for protection. Additionally, having versatile cleaning

products like Magic Eraser can help you keep your home clean and spotless. By investing in these must-have items, you can ensure that your new home is not only functional but also a safe and pleasant place to live.

References

What Are the Essential Tools Every New Homeowner Needs | 16 tools homeowners and renters should have on hand for basic repairs and home projects, Retrieved 29 July, 2022, From,

<https://www.businessinsider.com/guides/home/essential-tools-everyone-should-own?IR=T>

How Do I Choose the Right Cleaning Supplies for My New Home? | How To Build A Perfect Cleaning Kit (And Essential Cleaning Items You Can Purchase), Retrieved 2 Feb, 2023, From,

<https://www.forbes.com/home-improvement/cleaning-organization/cleaning-supplies-checklist/>

What Safety Gear Should I Have on Hand for Home Projects? | 10 Safety Tools Every DIYer Needs, From,

<https://www.hgtv.com/design/remodel/products/10-safety-tools-every-diyer-needs>

Which Measuring and Leveling Tools Are Must-Haves for New Homeowners? | 30 Essential Home Repair Tools You Should Have, Retrieved 6 Nov, 2023, From,

<https://www.wired.com/gallery/how-to-build-a-home-tool-kit/>

What Should I Include in My Toolbox for Basic Home Repairs? | Home-Repair Tool Basics, From,

<https://home.howstuffworks.com/home-repair-tools-ga.htm>

How To Use Magic Eraser For Cleaning? | Tips on Using a Magic Eraser?, Retrieved 14 March, 2023, From,

<https://www.bondcleaning.sydney/how-to-use-magic-eraser-for-cleaning/>

