



# Household Hacks Every Homemaker Needs to Know

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## Abstract

Managing a household efficiently requires creativity, time-saving strategies, and smart problem-solving techniques. *Household Hacks Every Homemaker Needs to Know* is a practical guide filled with clever, budget-friendly tips designed to make daily chores easier, faster, and more effective. From cleaning shortcuts and organization tricks to DIY solutions and time management tips, this collection empowers homemakers to streamline their routines and tackle everyday tasks with confidence. Whether you're a seasoned homemaker or just starting out, these hacks will help transform your home into a more organized, functional, and stress-free space.



## 1. Introduction

Running a household is no small feat. Between cleaning, cooking, organizing, and managing everyone's schedules, it can often feel like there just aren't enough hours in the day. That's where household hacks come in—a collection of clever shortcuts and creative solutions that help make home life more manageable. These time-tested tricks aren't just about saving time; they're about simplifying everyday tasks, reducing stress, and helping homemakers reclaim control over their daily routines. Whether you're juggling a busy family or just want to make home maintenance a little easier, this guide will introduce you to smart, practical hacks that every homemaker should have in their back pocket.

## **2. Simple food prep hacks every cook should know**



With the cost of living crisis stretching our budgets to breaking point, home cooking is very much back on the menu. In a recent survey half of people (47%) questioned said that they planned to eat out less going forward.

Whether you're preparing meals at home to save money in Perth or you genuinely love cooking, it never hurts to make the process quicker and easier.

Here are seven simple food preparation hacks that could help you get meals on the table faster!

### **1. Chocolate**

If you're baking with chocolate and want to grate it without a gooey mess, put the block and your grater in the freezer first for 10 mins. This will speed up the grating process and prevent you from having to clean up too much after.

### **2. Potatoes**

Make the quickest potato wedges ever by using an apple slicer to split each potato into even pieces.



Don't fancy wedges? Never put up with lumpy mash again. Forget your stick masher and tip the mash, milk and softened butter in to a large bowl and whisk with an electric hand-held whisk until smooth, instead. This Smeg Hand Mixer came out on top in the GHI's electric whisk tests, so it's worth checking out if you're in the market for a new one.

### **3. Fruit**



Get even more juice from your lemons and limes: pop them on a plate and microwave for 10-15 seconds until just beginning to soften, then slice and squeeze for maximum juice.

Need your avocados, bananas and soft fruits to ripen more quickly? Keep them together in a paper bag and the ethylene gas produced by avocados and bananas should have your fruit ready for breakfast.

### **4. Spice**

Every cook knows that chopping garlic, ginger or chilli is the most tedious thing you can do in the kitchen!

Instead, use a microplane to grate everything straight in to the pan or bowl. And if there are leftovers, whizz them into a purée and freeze in ice cube trays for a fast-fix instant flavour addition to curries and stir-fries.

### **5. Shallots**

Struggling to peel shallots? Put them in a bowl and cover with boiling water. Leave for 10 seconds, and then lift them out. The skins should peel off much more easily.

## 6. Sauce

Making a béchamel sauce isn't too tricky but sometimes time (or inclination!) gets in the way.

Reach for the full-fat cream cheese instead. Add straight to the pan, thin to desired consistency with water and flavour with mustard, herbs or grated cheese.

## 7. Veg

Carrots, sprouts and potatoes are just a few examples of vegetables that taste better when roasted!

Don't be fooled into thinking you have to boil your vegetables before roasting them. Save yourself time and get a much tastier result by simply roasting.

## 3. DIY Home Decorating Hacks



Decorating like a designer doesn't have to be hard. There are many tips and tricks you can follow to help you transform your home. We've consulted several designers who shared their simple home decor ideas to breathe new life into your space in Perth. In this article, we'll provide home decorating tips to freshen up the rooms in your home without breaking your budget.

### Home Decorating Tips for the DIYer in You

#### 1. Set the Tone at the Front Door

If you want your house to make a great first impression, paint the front door a fun, glossy hue. “Red is a lucky color in many cultures,” says Lara Allen-Brett, a New Jersey-based stager. A red door meant “welcome” to weary travelers in early America, and on churches it represents a safe haven.

Two other hues gaining favor are orange and yellow, according to San Francisco-based stager Christopher Breining. Both colors are associated with joy and warmth.

One thing that should go is an outdated screen door. Get rid of it or replace it with a storm door with full-length glass that you can switch out for a screened panel.

## **2. Paint Walls in Light and Neutral Colors**

Painting a room a different color can create a dramatic change in your space. Stick to colors like beige or gray, especially on the first floor, where flow is important. “You want to minimize jarring transitions,” says Breining. Neutral walls give you the greatest decorating flexibility, allowing you to easily switch up your accessories.

And if you have two small rooms next to each other, painting them the same neutral color helps them feel larger. Look at a paint strip and move up or down a shade or two for a subtle variation from room to room, suggests Allen-Brett.

Changing paint colors is an inexpensive way to update a room. Match your new color to the surrounding decor so you don’t feel compelled to purchase new accessories, or consider painting an accent wall to create some contrast.

## **3. Make Sure Your Sofa “Talks” to Your Chairs**

Your living space is often where people congregate, drawing family and friends together. To create a warm and welcoming environment, consider arranging your furniture in a way that invites connection.

“A conversation area that has a U-shape, with a sofa and two chairs facing each other at each end of the coffee table, or an H-shape, with a sofa directly across from two chairs and a coffee table in the middle, is ideal,” says Michelle Lynne, a Dallas-based stager.

One common mistake to avoid is pushing all the furniture against the walls. “People do that because they think it will make their room look bigger, but in reality, floating the furniture away from the walls makes the room feel larger,” she says.

## **4. Let the Sun Shine**

“When it comes to heavy, outdated drapes, a naked bank of windows is better than an ugly one,” says Lynne. Ideally, window dressings should be functional and elegant—think sheers paired with full-length panels.

If your room gets a lot of sun, opt for light colors that won't fade. The most recommended lightweight fabrics for panels are cotton, linen, and silk blends because they tend to hang well.

For homeowners looking to decorate without breaking the bank, new window treatments help dress up a room at a relatively low cost. Opt for curtains, roller shades, or vertical blinds to keep costs down. Or, as mentioned above, you can also strip your windows and leave them bare for natural light to stream in.

### **5. Hang at Least One Mirror in Every Room**



“Mirrors can make a space feel brighter because they bounce the light around the room,” says Breining. But placing one in the wrong spot can be almost as bad as not having one at all.

Put mirrors on walls perpendicular to windows, not directly across from them. Hanging a mirror directly opposite a window can actually bounce the light right back out the window.

### **6. Scale Artwork to Your Wall**

“There are few things more ridiculous-looking than hanging dinky little art too high on the wall,” says Breining. The middle of a picture should hang at eye level. If one person is short and the other tall, average their heights.

Take scale into account. For a large wall, go big with one oversize piece or group smaller pieces gallery-style. For the latter, don't space the pictures too far apart—2 to 4 inches between items usually looks best.

## **7. Layer Your Lighting**

Lighting plays an important part in our homes, setting the tone and ambiance. Every room should have three kinds of lighting:

**Accent:** Accent lighting is more decorative and is used to highlight certain home features, such as artwork.

**Ambient:** This lighting provides overall illumination and often comes from ceiling fixtures.

**Task:** Task lighting is often found over a kitchen island or a reading nook.

For a living room, you should have at least 3 watts (42 lumens) per square foot. One visual trick Breining swears by is using uplights. "Placing a canister uplight or a torchiere in the corner will cast a glow on the ceiling, making a room seem bigger," he says.

## **8. Anchor Rugs Under Furniture Feet**



When it comes to area rugs, placement and sizing are key. "In a living room, all four legs of the sofa and chairs in a furniture grouping should fit on it—the rug should define the seating area," says Breining. "At the very least, the front two legs of the sofa and chairs should rest on it," he adds.



Even living rooms with less-than-generous proportions usually require an 8-by-10-foot or a 9-by-12-foot rug to properly accommodate a seating area. Go too small with the rug size and everything looks out of scale.

### **9. Call in a Pro to Declutter**

The longer you live in a house, the less you see the mess over time. Sometimes you need a fresh pair of eyes. You can hire an organizer for a few hours to tackle bookshelves and closets, which are often packed with twice the amount of stuff they should hold. A professional organizer costs on average \$522 per project or between \$55 and \$100 per hour.\*

If you prefer to take the DIY approach to decluttering, Breining suggests whittling down what's on your shelves by 50%. Then mix horizontal stacks of books among the vertical rows and intersperse decorative objects, such as bowls or vases, among them.

### **10. Use Visual Tricks To Raise the Ceiling**

If your ceilings are on the low side, paint them white to make the room feel more expansive. Hang curtains higher than the windows, suggests Allen-Brett, to trick your eye into thinking the room is taller. Most standard curtain panels measure 84 or 96 inches, allowing you to go about 3 inches above the window casing before the length gets too short.

If you want to hang them higher, you'll have to order custom drapes. Love patterned panels? Try vertical stripes—the lines visually elongate your walls. Leaning a large mirror against a wall can also make a room seem taller.

### **11. Give Old Finishes an Update**

Got dated fixtures? Reinvent them with spray paint and inexpensive refinishing kits. "A 1980s brass chandelier can get a new lease on life with a quick coat of hammered-bronze or satin-nickel spray paint," says Breining.

Even outdated kitchen cabinets benefit from a few coats of white paint and new hardware. And if you thought there was no hope for Formica countertops, think again. Breining swears by Rust-Oleum Countertop Transformations, a DIY counter-coating product that mimics stone, making even the most dated 1970s counter look fresh.

Finally, swap out cracked and mismatched switch plates and outlet covers for updated matching ones. Says Lynne: "Nothing drags down a refreshed space like a dingy, almond-colored switch plate."

#### 4. Gardening Hacks That Really Work



With all the newfangled gadgets and tricks that make gardening easier—like apps that tell you when to water your plants or fancy grow lights that supercharge your sprouts—sometimes you have to remind yourself that old school hacks can be just as effective. From scattering this morning’s coffee grounds to ward off pesky intruders or transforming an empty wine bottle into a slow, steady watering tool, these old school gardening hacks work, and they’re proof that sometimes simplicity is king.

##### **Make Seed Starts From Eggshells**

Instead of buying plastic seed trays, crack your eggs carefully and use the shells as tiny, biodegradable planters. “They hold moisture well, provide a little calcium boost, and when the seedlings are ready, you can plant the whole thing right into the soil,” says Valeria Nyman, gardening expert and chief product officer.

She says to poke a small hole in the bottom for drainage while it’s growing (you can use a needle), then crush the shell a bit before planting so your roots can break through.

Another perk of using eggshells is that slugs and other soft-bodied pests can’t pass over them, adds Jeremy Yamaguchi, the CEO of Lawn Love. You can even crush a bunch and sprinkle over the soil around your plants.

##### **Mash Banana Peels for Healthy Roses**

So many kitchen scraps can help your garden thrive, and banana peels are a perfect example of this.

“Banana peels are packed with potassium, calcium, and phosphorus which are nutrients that promote strong roots and more vibrant blooms in rose plants,” says Andrew Porwol, a seasoned gardener and founder of Sapcote Garden Centre. “Chop the peels into smaller pieces and bury them near the base of your rose bushes instead of throwing them away. This will also improve soil texture and make the rose plant healthier over time.”

### **Use an Old Wine Bottle to Slowly Water Plants**

Finally! A cute and effective way to upcycle last night’s bottle of wine. Using an old wine bottle to water plants harnesses gravity to create a slow, steady drip that nurtures roots over time. Clean the bottle thoroughly, fill it with water, and invert it into the soil next to your plant, ensuring the opening is slightly buried.

The narrow neck acts as a natural regulator, releasing water gradually to maintain consistent soil moisture. This simple, eco-friendly method minimizes water waste while promoting healthy root growth.

### **Add Coffee Grounds to Your Compost to Deter Pests**

Don’t throw away those coffee grounds so fast—they can help your garden grow! “Coffee grounds work to deter slugs and other pests with their aroma, are high in the nutrients needed by the plants in your garden, and they improve soil structure,” says Lauren Craig, a gardening expert from Humble Hive Consulting. “They can be added as a ‘nitrogen’ ingredient in your compost pile, but be sure that coffee grounds don’t exceed 20% of your pile’s composition. This might upset plants desiring a less acidic environment.”

### **Create a Drip Line with an Old Hose**

Installing drip irrigation is an expensive and timely endeavor, but a garden hose with some carefully added punctures can do the job perfectly.

“Drip lines allow you to direct water directly into the soil around your plants throughout the day, strategically,” Yamaguchi says. “All you really need is some kind of water line that has individual small holes along it, and while you can buy a drip line, you can also use an old hose and poke the holes yourself.”

He says to use a ¼-inch drill bit to make the holes. This is also a great way to repurpose a hose that already has a leak or hole in it.

### **Build a “Lazy Compost” Trench**

Forget cumbersome compost bins, stinky piles of kitchen scraps, or splurge-y compost solutions. All you need is a small spade and you’re good to go.

“Just dig a shallow trench in your garden, toss in your kitchen scraps (no meat or dairy), cover with soil, and let the worms and microbes do their thing,” Nyman says. “This is nature’s slow cooker for compost. A few months later, the soil is rich, loose, and full of nutrients.” Just make sure to rotate where you bury scraps so the whole garden gets a feast over time.

### **Sprinkle Epsom Salt to Nourish Plants**

You love Epsom salt for its muscle-relaxing abilities when taking a bath or soaking your feet, and your garden can enjoy the benefits, too.

“Magnesium and sulfur are plant gold, and Epsom salt is packed with both,” Nyman says. “Sprinkle a tablespoon around tomato, pepper, and rose plants, or dissolve it in water for a foliar spray. This boosts chlorophyll production, making leaves greener and stronger.”

Another perk is that it helps prevent blossom-end rot—that annoying black spot on tomatoes. Just don’t overdo it! Once a month is plenty.

### **Repurpose Old Newspaper to Protect Your Plants**

Before mulching, lay down a thick layer of newspaper or cardboard around your plants. “It smothers weeds, holds moisture, and breaks down over time to enrich the soil,” Nyman explains. “Wet the newspaper first so it stays in place while you mulch over it. And if you’re using cardboard, avoid the glossy stuff—it doesn’t break down as nicely.”

## **5. Genius House Cleaning Hacks for a Tidier Space**





Our clever cleaning hacks help take the work out of your chore list by saving time and energy. Use household tools meant for other tasks to get your space spotless in no time. Tuck these ideas into your bag of tricks for an immaculate and fresh home.

### **Remove Pet Hair with Rubber Gloves**

As much as we love our four-legged friends, pet hair can accumulate quickly. Skip spending extra money on tools and special attachments and use this simple cleaning hack to pick up after your fur babies. Simply wear rubber household gloves and run them over the surface of your furniture. The rubber will cause the pet fur to gather into a ball that can be easily thrown away.

### **Steam-Clean Your Microwave**

Place a bowl of lemon juice in your microwave and set the microwave for 2 minutes or until the lemon juice comes to a boil. This cleaning hack will produce steam to soften any debris stuck in the microwave. You'll be able to clean out the appliance with just the swipe of a cloth, plus you'll be left with a citrusy fresh scent.

### **Remove Wine Stains from Carpet**



Wine is known to be one of the toughest stains to remove. Luckily, club soda can be a saving grace. Start by spritzing the stain with club soda. Next, blot the wine, juice, or colored drink stain with a microfiber cloth. Repeat until the stain is gone.

### **Clean Cabinets with a Vacuum**

Your vacuum can be a helpful tool for cleaning hard-to-reach cabinet areas. Use your vacuum's brush attachment to pick up dust and crumbs inside. Debra Johnson from Merry Maids suggests this cleaning hack in Perth for the outside of the cabinets: wipe the area around the hardware with a cloth dampened with warm water and Murphy Oil Soap.

### **Use Your Dishwasher to Clean Light Fixtures**

Did you know some light fixture pieces are dishwasher-safe? Amanda Thomas of Moxie Girl suggests running removable glass pieces, such as domes, through the dishwasher for this cleaning hack. Run a drying cycle to reduce spots on your light fixtures.

### **Correct Common Cleaning Mistakes**

Believe it or not, there is a wrong way to clean. But, by doing things the right way, you could save time—and the hassle of re-cleaning. Check out these house cleaning hacks to perfect your technique and shave minutes off your cleaning routine.

### **Use a Pillowcase to Clean a Ceiling Fan**



Leslie Reichert of Green Cleaning Coach shares one of her favorite cleaning hacks for dusting a ceiling fan quickly and efficiently. Slip a pillowcase over ceiling fan blades, one at a time, then wipe. This way, dust falls into the pillowcase, not on your furniture and floors.

## **Clean with What You Have**

Skip buying new items for cleaning hacks using what you already have. The things you need to clean might be lying around your house. Watch and see how to tidy up using everyday items you wouldn't immediately think of as cleaning tools.

### **Use Socks to Clean Blinds**

This cleaning hack from Melissa Maker of Clean My Space uses socks as a duster. First, put an old sock on one of your hands and spritz it with water. Then, grip each blind panel and slide your sock-covered hand from one end to the other, removing dust from both sides of the slat.

### **Learn the Trick to Cleaning Faster**

The key to cleaning more quickly might be cleaning more often. You'll spend less time overall when you stick to a regular schedule. Watch this video from cleaning expert Donna Smallin Kuper to learn her best tips for quicker cleaning.

### **Use a Paint Roller to Clean Ceilings**

Cleaning textured ceilings can be a pain. Sweeping them with a broom can knock down light fixtures if you're not careful. Roll a damp high-nap paint roller over the ceiling to pick up dust and cobwebs for a more effective cleaning hack.

### **Spot-Clean Fabrics with Baby Wipes**

Baby wipes are surprisingly effective because they contain very little moisture, have gentle cleaning agents, and dry quickly. That's why Derek Christian from Cleaning Business Today suggests using them for spots and stains on fabrics. However, don't confuse baby wipes with cleaning wipes, which might contain bleach or other harmful chemicals.

### **Use Tennis Balls to Launder Comforters**

Washing a bulky comforter can be a tricky business. Amanda Thomas of Moxie Girl says you can machine-wash most comforters in front-loaders, as long as the comforter fills only half the washer. Then, add tennis balls to the dryer to keep the comforter's stuffing from collecting in one corner.

### **Clean Window Treatments Faster**

Keep window treatments on the rod to save time as you clean. Instead of taking them down, use the cleaning hack of just shaking them out to remove loose dust. Then, vacuum drapes or curtains from top to bottom using the upholstery attachment. Finally, vacuum floors after cleaning window treatments to pick up any fallen dust.

## Have Your Kids Clean Your Mattress

Jumping on the bed can help freshen up your mattress. Mary Findley of Go Clean suggests a fun house cleaning hack: Have your kids bounce around on the bed to bring up dust from inside. Then vacuum the mattress top. (If your vacuum has a beater bar, turn the bar off first.)

### 5.1. Homemade Baking Soda Air Freshener Recipes



How do you freshen up your home environment? No doubt, air fresheners can quickly make your house smell great in no time. However, store-bought products often contain phthalates, benzene, formaldehyde and other VOCs that pollute indoor air, causing eye irritation, respiratory disorders, headaches and allergies. Excessive use of synthetic air fresheners may contribute to chronic health diseases, including lung cancer.

In urban areas like Perth, there's a rising trend towards eco-friendly or chemical-free air fresheners for their homes. Local consumers are becoming more aware of the health and environmental repercussions of chemically laden household cleaners, and air/room fresheners are one of them. Fortunately, you can prepare homemade recipes using baking soda to neutralise bad odours from your home without causing indoor air pollution. Baking soda is a versatile cleaning product that can absorb unpleasant odours effectively while promoting a healthy home environment. That's one of the reasons why it is a staple cleaning product in the toolkit of vacate cleaning Perth experts.



In this post, you'll explore 5 homemade air freshener recipes using baking soda and other natural products. However, ensure you stay consistent with your regular house clean-up session to prevent dirt and dust buildup. This can make a significant difference in maintaining a clean, hygienic and fresh-smelling abode.

### **1. Baking Soda + Essential Oil Jar Air Freshener**

Sodium bicarbonate or baking soda is a great leavening agent used to bake cakes, cookies and muffins. The best part is that it can help you clean and disinfect almost all surfaces naturally. It can effectively absorb foul odours, but doesn't add fragrance to the room. So, add natural fragrance when preparing a DIY room freshener using baking soda.

This is one of the basic jar-based fresheners, ideal for a living room, bathrooms and bedrooms. You can use tea tree oil, lavender, peppermint, eucalyptus oil and any of your favourite essential oil that can instantly uplift the feel of your indoor environment. Apart from baking soda and essential oil, arrange a glass jar, coffee filter, thin fabric, and a rubber band or jar lid with holes.

#### **Directions:**

- Add 1 cup baking soda to the glass jar
- Add 10-15 drops of your favourite essential oil and mix it well.
- Cover the jar with a coffee filter or a thin fabric. Secure it with a rubber band
- Place this DIY air freshener jar in the desired room to banish lingering odour.

**Note:** Shake the jar every week to release more aroma, creating a blissful and relaxed environment.

### **2. Natural Air Freshener using Dried Herbs**

The duo of baking soda and herbs make a perfect natural air freshener to banish foul smells from your home. This DIY natural deodoriser can easily absorb musty and unpleasant odours rather than masking them.

You can use rosemary, lavender, mint, chamomile, rose petals, etc to freshen up your space. These natural herb fragrances can uplift the feel of your home when combined with baking soda.

#### **Instructions:**

Mix half a cup of baking soda, 10 drops of essential oil and 2 tablespoons of dried herbs in a jar or container. Cover the jar and place it in your bedroom, bathroom or living space for an

aromatic environment throughout the day. Believe it or not! This can help create a healthy living environment while leaving a great impression on your landlord.

### **3. Baking Soda + Citrus Air Freshener**

This DIY recipe can create an odoriferous indoor environment without any toxic fumes. You can use this spray to freshen up your carpets, upholstered furniture, fabrics and the air. Citrus fruits like lemons, grapefruits and oranges have a strong aroma, helping banish unpleasant pet pee or rotten-egg-like odour from your home.

Dissolve baking soda and warm water and add two tablespoons of lemon or orange juice. Pour this mixture into a spray bottle and shake well. You can apply this baking soda air freshener on your carpets, countertops, floors and upholstery to eliminate bad smells and leave a pleasant citrus smell. The citrus element, especially lemon, can help disinfect surfaces with ease. You can store this spray in your fridge and use it for 3-5 weeks whenever required.

However, if you are at the end of your tenancy, book experts for a quality vacate cleaning Perth and secure your hard-earned bond money without any rental dispute.

### **4. Baking Soda Carpet Freshener/Deodoriser**



Delicate floor coverings are likely to trap dust, debris, grime, germs and accidental spills due to regular wear and tear. This can cause mould and pollute the indoor air environment. Baking soda can do wonders if you want to freshen up your carpets and rugs naturally. This recipe can banish smell from dirt-laden carpets, leaving your carpets smelling fresh again. It

can also help prevent mould and mildew by keeping your floor coverings clean and moisture-free.

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup baking soda
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- 10 drops of your favourite essential oil

**Directions:**

- Mix all ingredients in a bowl
- Sprinkle it over your carpets and rugs
- Let it sit for half an hour or overnight because baking soda takes at least 24 hours to absorb bad odours.
- Vacuum the surface to remove powder residue

**Tip:** It is always good to remove dirt and grime from your carpets before banishing odours. Use white vinegar to clean your carpets like a pro.

**5. Baking Soda + Vanilla Extract Air Freshener**



This recipe is perfect to deodorise your refrigerator. Baking soda can absorb unpleasant odours of stale food or leftovers, while vanilla extract can leave a fresh aroma behind. After sprucing up your fridge inside and outside, you can use the following recipe for great results:

- Add half a cup of baking soda with vanilla extract (3-6 drops) in a bowl
- Place the container or bowl inside your cleaned refrigerator to combat the smell
- Replace it every 30 days to maintain the aromatic fragrance.

According to vacate cleaners in Perth, baking soda alone can freshen up your fridge and other kitchen appliances, including your oven, microwave and dishwasher. However, it is always good to carry cleaning essentials in a caddy to save time and energy during the clean-up session.

## **Conclusion**

Being a homemaker doesn't have to mean being overwhelmed by endless chores and to-do lists. With the right hacks, you can transform your home into a well-oiled machine that runs more smoothly and efficiently. These simple yet powerful tips can help you save time, reduce clutter, and create a more peaceful living environment. Whether it's a quick fix for stubborn stains or a smart way to organize your pantry, every little trick makes a big difference. Embrace these household hacks as your secret tools for managing your home with ease—and enjoy the extra time and peace of mind they bring.

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