

Guide To The Old School Hacks You Still Need To Know

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Abstract

In the fast-paced world of modern technology, we're often captivated by cutting-edge solutions, but some of the most effective techniques have been around for years. These "old school hacks" remain essential tools for everyday tasks, enhancing productivity, security, and problem-solving without relying on the latest gadgets. Whether it's knowing how to troubleshoot common tech issues, organize your digital life, or secure your data, these timeless strategies continue to be valuable. In this guide, we'll explore the old-school tricks and tips that, despite the evolution of technology, are still worth knowing and using today.



1. Introduction

In today's world, where rapid technological advancements are commonplace, it's easy to overlook the power of foundational techniques that have stood the test of time. These "old school hacks" are not just relics of the past; they're timeless solutions that continue to offer real value, even in the age of high-speed internet and Al-driven tools. Whether you're solving a problem on your desktop or optimizing your workflow, these classic methods can still make a big impact. In this guide, we'll break down some of the essential old-school hacks in Perth that remain as relevant as ever, helping you stay sharp and resourceful in a fast-evolving digital landscape.

2. Home Hacks Just as Brilliant Today as They Were



These tips and tricks for the home have been passed down from generation to generation, but do they still hold up today? You better believe it!

Floor Ruler

No need to scramble for a tape measure every time you have to measure something big. Draw a ruler on your shop floor with a permanent-ink, felt-tip marker. It won't be accurate enough for precise measurements, but for rough cutting it will save you time and effort. When the markings start to wear off, just redo them.

Trapeze Clothes Hanger

Here's a quick way to add another clothes rod in a closet. It's an especially useful closet update that you can DIY for a child's closet, because you can easily adjust the height to accommodate a changing wardrobe and a growing child. Use lightweight chain, attached to both the upper and lower rods with screw hooks. Squeeze the screw hooks closed with a pliers.

Lawn Fertilizer Markers

So you fertilized your lawn last week, and now you've got some streaks of pale grass where you missed, and some really dark streaks where you hit twice. To prevent this, use two short

lengths of wood as markers. Whenever you start a new row from either end of your run, drop a marker at the edge of the line of the fertilizer. Aim for the marker as you proceed, and move the marker at each end every time you make a turn. It works with a broadcast spreader as well.

Help For Losers

Doesn't it drive you nuts when you drop a small item on the floor and you can't find it? Here's some help. Lay a flashlight on the floor, and shine the beam slowly in a circle so it just skims the floor surface. The shadow cast by the lost item will help you spot it.

Vacuum Accessory Keeper



Here's my quick and simple method for keeping shop vacuum accessories handy: Use an ordinary wire clothes hanger for each accessory. Bend the horizontal bar into an inverted "V," squeeze the arms together and insert them into the open end of the accessory. The tension will hold the accessory in place. Then mount a row of hooks or screw eyes on the wall and hang the accessories in place.

Hollow Door Fixer

If you have a sizable hole in a painted hollow-core door, here's a quick way to fix it: Completely fill the hole with spray foam insulation, so the foam is about level with the door surface. Allow it to dry overnight. The foam will expand slightly as it dries, forming a slight mound. Slice off the mound with a razor knife so the foam is slightly lower than the door surface. Apply one or two coats of drywall compound, sand it smooth when dry, and paint.

Roof Gutter Tool Trays

Here's my solution to workbench clutter: I mounted vinyl gutters along both ends of my workbench to hold small tools and other items that usually end up buried on the work surface. The gutters are durable, inexpensive, and it's easy to find things in them. An added benefit is that small items that get knocked off the workbench no longer fall on the floor. Use an end cap at each end.

Splashblock Anchor

Do those plastic downspout splashblocks tend to wander away from the foundation of your house, allowing water to seep into the basement? To prevent this, drill two holes through the hefty corners of the plastic at the back end. To anchor it, drive two large spikes through the holes into the ground.

Plastic Bag Storage



If those empty plastic grocery bags are threatening to take over your kitchen, here's help: Stuff them into an empty paper towel tube. It's quick and easy, and a dozen or so bags take up hardly any space. Keep the stuffed tube handy in a drawer.

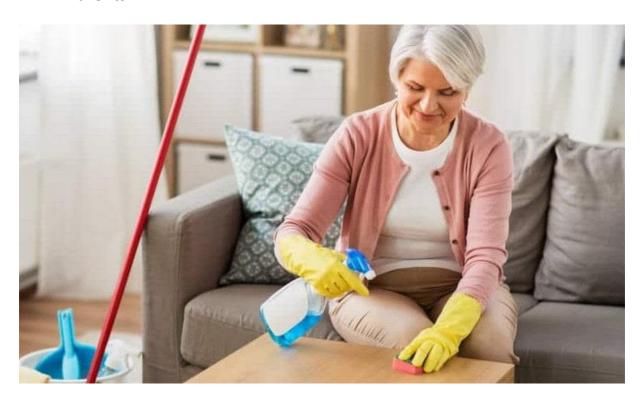
Blade Life Extender

When the blade in your utility knife gets dull, it's usually only the point and the first 1/4 in. or so that's bad. You can get additional life from your blade by snapping off the point with a pliers (wear safety glasses). It won't cut quite as well as a fresh blade, but a lot better than the dull one.

A Better Sawhorse

In a recent "Handy Hints," you showed how to build hinged sawhorses. They were OK, but these are better. (We agree.) They can be cut from a sheet of 3/4-inch plywood 48-inches wide by 75-inches long, and when folded, each horse is only 2-inches thick. The drop-on top is optional. The bolts just slip into the space between the two legs alongside the hinges.

3. Cleaning Through The Decades: Popular Cleaning Hacks From Your Parents



Due to modern science, people now have access to information related to the best cleaners and best cleaning methods. This practical information is used often nowadays for cleaning an entire home. However, that does not mean the cleaning hacks in Perth used by your parents were a total waste of time. They can be equally effective as modern methods and, in some cases, even more effective. It is just a fact about learning these old-school hacks and knowing when to use them.

Combining old hacks with modern methods can prove to be really helpful. Nowadays, you will see professionals use this combination for professional vacate cleaning Perth. This is why you should learn about old-school cleaning hacks in Perth. Here are the popular cleaning hacks that your parents used. Combine them with your preferred modern cleaning techniques to ensure the best results.

1. Do Not Complicate Cleaning

It is true that nowadays, homeowners have a wide variety of products to choose from. But the situation was way different for your parents. They had limited options and often needed to work it out with what they already had in their pantry. Household stuff like baking soda, white vinegar, and lemons were a big part of their cleaning tasks. Such items are also quite inexpensive and natural, which makes them a healthier option for the environment and your health. The same thing cannot be said about commercial cleaning products, as most of them contain hazardous chemicals.

Additionally, you should not forget about hot water. It has been proven to work but is often forgotten, which makes people reach for their disinfectant products. You can use boiling water to disinfect things like cloths, sponges, metal items, plastic toys, etc. This old-school hack in Perth is still used in many households since it is easy and saves a lot of time. More importantly, it helps keep the procedure simple instead of complicating it.

2. Clean Your Space Everyday



Undoubtedly, most people nowadays have hectic schedules and live a very busy life. This is why cleaning takes a backseat. Homeowners set time aside, usually a weekend, to complete

the cleaning tasks. However, it is worth noting that your parents took care of a few tasks every day to avoid overwhelming themselves later on. Doing something every day will reduce the pressure on you during the weekend as you will have less to deal with on a Saturday morning. This hack is also useful for busy parents.

You do not have to complete the big tasks every day. Rather, you should make it a habit to handle any small task you can when you get time daily. Things as simple as sweeping your floor quickly after your breakfast or folding all your washed clothes will do the job. Moreover, maintaining a clean home will make way for easier expert vacate cleaning Perth when you are nearing the end of your tenancy.

3. Use Baking Soda to Deal With Unpleasant Odours

Using baking soda to neutralise unpleasant home odours is one of the best old-school cleaning hacks in Perth that your parents used. The reason why it works is that the majority of odours are acidic, while baking soda serves as a PH neutraliser. Here is a great way to use baking soda:

- Add about 2 tablespoons of baking soda to the drain.
- Allow the cold water to run for 30 seconds.
- Now, add 2 tablespoons of white vinegar to the drain.
- Keep the drain covered with a wet cloth for around 10 minutes.
- Finally, rinse using hot water.

Here is how to use baking soda on your mattress:

- Sprinkle it directly on your mattress.
- Allow it to sit there for no less than 20 minutes.
- Vacuum it up.

4. Avoid Single-Use Products

Using single-use products is a poor idea if you are looking to save some money and reduce environmental impact. This is because they are not recyclable. You will need to keep purchasing them for every use. Single-use paper towels are quite popular these days and you can find them in many households.

However, your parents used to get the cleaning work done without needing them. Investing in things like bar mop towels, microfibre cloths, flour sack towels, etc., is the ideal thing to

do. This is because such cleaning tools are reusable, which makes them inexpensive and ecofriendly. You will often see professionals use these tools for budget vacate cleaning Perth.

5. Find Simple Solutions for Tough Tasks

It is a fact that there are a few cleaning tasks that most homeowners just do not like doing. The situation was the same for your parents too. Some tasks were just too hard to complete. However, older generations were able to find some simple solutions for these tough issues. It helped them keep their home clean without spending a lot of money. For instance, rather than scrubbing your plates and pans to remove the food bits, soak them.

Soaking them in hot, soapy water for no less than half an hour will make it easy for you to get rid of the tough stains. Similarly, if you are having a tough time making your clothes white again, soak such clothes in hot water (3 litres) and the juice of a lemon for no less than two hours. Finally, run it through your washer. Experts often find and use simple solutions for tough problems during professional vacate cleaning Perth.

4. Old-Fashioned Garden Tips from Our Grandparents



Although I was trained as a biologist, and I am truly a bit of a science nerd, I still believe it's worthwhile to keep the old ways alive and to honor the wisdom of previous generations (whether it's to put into practice or just for the history of it). And in that spirit, I've put

together a list of garden tips and tricks that our grandparents and great-grandparents may have used in their own gardens. Now some of these old-fashioned tips and tricks are based only on anecdotes, observation, and folklore, while some tips have gone on to be backed by science. But in any case, I hope you find them to be interesting or useful in some way.

1. Plant Friends Together

This ancient system of pairing plants together in the garden has been making a comeback since the organic movement of the 1970s. Part science and part folklore, companion planting is the art and science of pairing compatible plants (or friends) together in order to create a healthier, more productive vegetable garden. Attracting pollinators and beneficial insects, and also repelling pests are only a few of the many ways that companion planting can benefit a garden. A well-known example of companion planting is the Three Sisters method of planting corn, beans, and squash which was used by Native Americans.

And sometimes, the aim of companion planting is knowing which plants not to plant in proximity to each other (non-compatible plants are often referred to as foes). This is the case with Black Walnut trees which create a substance called juglone that seeps in the soil and can kill certain plants.

If you find the idea of companion planting interesting, more in-depth information can be found in this article by Grit Magazine and in this chart by The Old Farmer's Almanac.

2. Use Cornmeal to Sow Tiny Seeds



Sow tiny seeds by mixing seeds with an equal amount of cornmeal. This allows seeds to be distributed more evenly, and for the placement of the seeds on the soil to be more visible against the light background of the cornmeal.

3. Save Your Fingernails with Soap

Do you have a hard time scrubbing the dirt and green stains from your fingernails after a day in the garden? An easy fix for this is to scrape your fingernails over a bar of soap before gardening and they will stay clean and free of stains.

4. Use Green Manure for a Bountiful Garden

Despite the name, green manure actually has nothing to do with poop. It is the age-old practice of sowing cover crops that will later be turned over and incorporated into the soil. Green manure adds nutrients and improves soil structure. You can read more about incorporating green manure in your garden here.

5. Treat 'Em Mean for Better Tomatoes

Back in my early gardening days, an older gardener once told me that I needed to treat my tomato plants a little mean. This may sound harsh, but what this really means is that in order to have strong tomato plants and abundant fruit, you need to avoid coddling them.

Overwatering can choke the roots of the plant and also result in a poorly developed root system. Allowing the soil to dry out a little between waterings encourages the plant to reach out and grow deep roots, making for a stronger, healthier plant. So water your tomatoes less frequently (2-3 times a week) but more deeply so that the water seeps down into the soil.

And when it comes to fertilizer, it's possible to add too much of a good thing to your garden. Over-fertilizing and adding too much nitrogen will make your tomato plants grow big beautiful foliage, but very little fruit. You can determine the nutrient levels of your soil by using a home test kit or sending a soil sample to your local county extension for testing.

6. Use Pie Plates for the Birds

Hang a few aluminum pie tins from a fence or trellis in the garden, or from a branch on your fruit tree. The flashing of the reflected light and the sounds they make banging together help to deter birds and other critters from feasting on your garden.

7. Give the Slugs a Brew

Place a shallow pan of beer in the garden to help trap slugs and snails. Apparently, slugs are attracted to beer (who knew?!), and they will crawl into the pan and drown (there are worse ways to go!) This may not 100% solve your slug problem, but you will trap at least a few this way.

8. Bury Your Kitchen Scraps

Composting in place, also called trench composting, was more common in previous generations than was a traditional compost pile. The basic idea is to dig holes or shallow trenches in your garden and fill them with the things you would normally add to a compost pile. This is an especially good method if you don't have the room for a compost pile, or if local ordinances prohibit them. To compost in place, simply dig a shallow trench in between garden plantings and fill it with kitchen scraps like eggshells, coffee grounds, and peelings. Cover with soil and that's it. When you're ready to add more, simply dig a new trench. Read more about it in this post by Morning Chores.

9. Plant Flowers for the Insects

Pollinators aren't the only important insects in the garden. Plant flowers and herbs that attract other beneficial insects like ladybugs, praying mantises, and parasitic wasps. Find out more in this article by Penn State Extension and in this one by Fine Gardening.

10. Pick the Bugs

Don't forget about using mechanical means of pest control. To help rid your garden of pests like Japanese Beetles and Hornworms, handpick them from your plants and drop them in a bucket of soapy water to drown them.

5. Old-Fashioned Cooking Tips That Really Work



Some old wives' tales never go out of style—like "a watched pot never boils" and "you are what you eat." Just like some old-fashioned cooking tips are still worth using in your modern kitchen. Some of these tips are aha's while others are duh's—but all are still pertinent, despite the fact that home kitchens have all the latest gadgets and appliances.

We polled chefs and other cooking experts for their thoughts on whether these old-school techniques still hold up today and they all gave an enthusiastic thumbs up. Here are 15 smart and creative old-fashioned cooking tips that still hold true. Get ready to transport right back to your grandmother's linoleum-floored kitchen. Plus, don't miss 15 Old-Fashioned Cooking Tips You Should Never Use and find out how How Neil Patrick Harris & David Burtka Conquer Family Mealtime.

Chill the dough for thicker cookies

This tip might be known, says Anne Grossman founder of Rebel Daughter Cookies, but it's worth repeating. "Chill that dough. If you want a thicker cookie, solidify the butter before baking. In fact, try pre-balling the dough and then freezing it, and allow it to thaw in the refrigerator overnight. Place the cookies in the oven as cold as possible. This gives the butter a fighting chance against the hot oven."

Use a wooden spoon to mix ingredients

A wooden spoon is softer and can mix better than metal or plastic spoon, says Michael Cook, retired chef, food connoisseur, former owner of two restaurants and blogger at My Conscious Eating. A wooden spoon also doesn't conduct heat, which means you can use it to stir sauces without them getting hot too quickly.

Keep vegetable scraps

Professional cooks do it all the time, and, no doubt, your grandmother also did. "Hold onto your scraps, then simmer them in a large pot of water for a homemade vegetable broth," says Emily Eggers trained chef from the Institute of Culinary Education and owner of Legally Healthy Blonde.

Always add salt to pasta water

The salt helps the pasta bind with the sauce for a thicker consistency. "It also dissolves and is absorbed into the pasta to give it extra flavor. Not a step to be missed," says Aysegul Sanford of Foolproof Living.

Things that grow together go together

"Fruits and vegetables that ripen at the same time of year taste great together," says Clare Ivatt founder of Kitchen Time Savers. Recipes that use these types of combinations will be

the most successful—peppers combined with tomatoes, squash and sweetcorn, and kale and pumpkin are all great combos.

Cook pasta in stock instead of boiling water



This classic Old World cooking technique from Italy's Emilia-Romagna region (considered the epicenter of Italian cuisine by chefs, historians, and culinary travelers) is a must-do for home chefs. Use this tip when preparing fresh (not boxed) pastas, says Chef Wendy Cacciatori who hails from Bologna and is the owner of Via Emilia 9 in Miami and Nonna Beppa.

In Perth City. Most of his dishes have been passed down from his grandmother: tortellini en brodo, tagliatelle with bolognese sauce, and hand-cut chicken breast with artichokes. "Water washes away the natural flavor of the pasta," says Wendy, "while stock—preferably vegetable and beef adds considerable flavor to any pasta dish, even if you serve simply with fresh butter and cheese."

Let chicken soak in milk for 48 hours

Because chicken has a tendency to dry out when cooking, this is another classic Old World tip that results in succulent chicken. "As it soaks, the milk helps both tenderize and add moisture," says Chef Wendy. "This also works well when cooking turkey."

Never rinse your pasta after cooking

When you rinse, you wash away the starches. And the sauce won't adhere well to the pasta. "Alternatively, finish cooking the pasta in the sauce, with a bit of the reserved pasta-cooking water," says Brian Theis, cookbook author The Infinite Feast: How to Host the Ones You Love, and chef and food blogger at The Infinite Feast.

Rely on your senses

Rely on your senses as you cook—for smell, color, texture, and taste—not just the recipe. "And always taste as you go," says Theis.

Keep your cooking knives sharpened

"A dull knife is more dangerous than a sharp knife," says Theis.

Brown your meat

If you're cooking beef or lamb, before you put it in the oven at the desired temperature, brown it off in a frying pan. "It'll seal in the flavor and make sure that when the juices flow, they add taste instead of going to waste," says Christina Russo, the co-founder of The Kitchen Community. It's a tip she garnered from her grandmother, she says.

Long, low, and slow

When you're cooking a casserole or a stew in a one-pot, as long as there's enough liquid, the longer you cook it at a lower temperature, the better it's going to taste. "Long, low, and slow was a rule that my grandmother swore by, and it's one that I still adhere too," says Russo.

Use a mortar and pestle



This is an old-fashioned cooking tip that stirs up childhood memories from Top Chef 18 and 2022 James Beard Semifinalist Chris Viaud. As a child, Viaud helped his Haitian mother to prepare dinner each night grinding up herbs and spices in a pilon, or mortar. He still uses this technique in preparing his Ansanm Sunday Dinners at Greenleaf, his restaurant in Milford, New Hampshire.

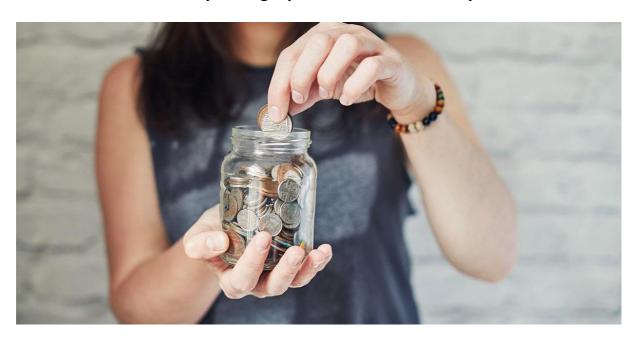
Take your time

Read the whole recipe before you begin. "Rushing through a recipe only increases your chances of messing things up—like skipping a step or using the wrong measurement," says Lori Bogedin, chef/owner of Twigs Cafe.

Make fish stock using trimmings of the fish

Ask your fishmonger for fish trimmings which are the leftover parts of fish after they've been filleted. Craig Fear, the author of New England Soups from the Sea, says, "homemade fish stock has delicate aromas and flavors that can't be mimicked in canned or boxed stocks from the supermarket."

6. Old-School Money-Saving Tips That Still Work Today



Technology can be super helpful when it comes to saving money — from apps that help you budget to online shopping tools that find you the best deals.

But sometimes the best way is the old-fashioned way.

Many old-school money-saving tips are still effective in today's technology-driven world, according to financial experts.

Here are six old-fashioned tips that are can still help you save big bucks today.

1. Use the envelope budgeting system

The premise of this classic money-saving method is simple.

After you pay your bills and set aside money for savings and any investments, divide the rest into spending categories like groceries, eating out, clothing, and entertainment. Get an envelope for each category, write the name on it, then stick inside the amount of cash you want to spend in that area — whether for the week or for the month.

Once the cash runs out, you can't spend any more money in that particular category.

"Our [financial planners] frequently encourage employees who are struggling with cash flow and debt to use the envelope system," Cynthia Meyer, a certified financial planner at Financial Finesse, told INSIDER. "This can be a particularly effective way to master discretionary spending on things like food, hobbies, and entertainment (for most people it's not necessary to put fixed expenses like housing or utilities in an envelope). There's no substitute for the awareness that comes with paying in cash."

One way to make this system even more effective is to put the receipt for each purchase in the envelope once you spend the cash, so you know exactly where your money goes, Meyer added.

Pamela Capalad, a certified financial planner and founder of Brunch and Budget, told INSIDER that she has a few clients who use this system and that it's most helpful if you use it only for a few main expenses — so you don't have a million envelopes to keep track of — and if you are committed to sticking to it.

"You need to be diligent about pulling cash out, separating it into the right envelopes, and not just pulling more cash out when you run out," Capalad said. "Categories that work best are groceries, shopping, and if you're a couple, fun money/allowances for each of you. Clients have also found it easier to budget on a weekly basis vs. a monthly basis."

2. Go cash-only



They say cash is king, which is why some people make a cash withdrawal of a portion of their paycheck to use for discretionary spending, Jennifer Lane, a certified financial planner at

Compass Planning, told INSIDER. That way, when the cash is gone, you know you've used up all your "fun" spending money, she said.

"For example, you want to cut down on lunch at work and decide to allow yourself \$20 per week," Lane said. "Cash the \$20 on Monday and parcel it out for the week. You can spend it all on Monday or cut back and eat a few cheaper lunches instead."

3. Freeze your credit card

Yes, literally freeze it.

Several experts recommended this tip for helping you stop spending money you don't have.

"Freeze half a bowl of water," Lane said. "Add the credit card to the bowl then top off the water and freeze... the card is suspended in the ice giving you plenty of time to think before making a big purchase."

This is especially effective because putting it in the microwave would ruin your credit card, so there's no way around it, Financial Finesse financial planner Steve White added.

Of course, this only works if you have not memorized your card number.

4. Balance your checkbook

With online banking, this practice may seem outdated, but it can make all the difference.

"Learning how to balance your checkbook, even though you can easily look online to see if stuff cleared, is important so that you understand how it works," Kelley Long of Financial Finesse told INSIDER. "I've seen too many people incur overdrafts after writing checks because they didn't understand that the money could still be in their account for days, sometimes weeks, and they ended up spending it."

"We recently returned from vacation and, when reconciling our receipts with what posted, found that a server had added a 0 to his tip, to take it from \$6 to \$60," Long said. "Had we not been checking, we would have missed that because it wasn't unusual for us to spend that much at a restaurant on vacation."

You'll also have a better idea of where your money goes — one of the most important aspects of budgeting — because you'll be recording transactions, she said.

5. Separate your bank accounts

It can be helpful to have at least three separate bank accounts for various types of expenses, Meyer said.

She recommends having one for fixed monthly expenses, one for annual expenses (such as life insurance, summer camp or vacations) and one for emergencies.

Lane also touted the benefits of this method, which she calls "a twist" on the envelope system.

"The nice thing about this system is that you can a chance to work out how much of your paycheck is already committed before the non-monthly expenses happen," she told INSIDER. "For example, decide in advance how much of your check you can devote to friend's weddings or kid's camp this year. Then when it comes time to plan the event you know your budget and can say no thank you or adjust to fit what you can afford."

Most online banks and some brick-and-mortar banks will let you open multiple savings account without an additional fee, Lane added.

6. Learn to make things instead of buying them



One of the most straightforward ways to save a bunch of money is to simply learn how to do and make more things that you would normally spend money on.

Teig Stanley, a certified financial planner at Financial Finesse, told INSIDER that there are many ways you can cut costs by being more self-sufficient.

You can make "DIY cleaning supplies, bug repellents" and even bake your own bread and grow your own vegetables if possible, Stanley said.

Financial planner Tania Brown added that "making instead of buying gifts" to that list.

And the benefits might be more than just financial. One woman who was able to quit her job at age 32 by being extremely frugal told INSIDER that learning new skills to save money was empowering and improved her relationship.

Conclusion

As technology continues to evolve, it's easy to get caught up in the allure of new gadgets and software. However, the effectiveness of old-school hacks in Perth proves that sometimes, the simplest methods are still the best. These timeless techniques not only help you navigate tech issues with ease but also instill a deeper understanding of the fundamentals that underpin modern technology. By integrating these tried-and-true tricks into your everyday routine, you stay equipped with practical skills that enhance efficiency and problem-solving. Embracing these classic approaches ensures that, no matter how advanced the tools around us become, we can still rely on the basics to get things done.

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