

Dad hacks:

Essential life hacks for the man of the house

Leave this page of handy hacks lying around and get Daddio reconnecting with his practical side this Father's Day, says *Kate Farr*.



Suited and booted

There's nothing more impressive than a well-turned-out chap in a suit. If Dad's a frequent flyer, here's what he needs to know about packing to leave him boardroom-ready straight off the plane – travel iron not required.

- If you're unable to hang your jacket on the plane, pack by turning the jacket inside out, leaving sleeves the correct way around, so that the sleeves are now inside the body of the jacket.
- Fold the jacket in half along the back seam, hiding the front and arms.
- Smooth any creases before folding your suit trousers into thirds and lying on top of your jacket.
- Finally, fold the top part of your jacket back over the trousers, making a neat square.
- Seal everything in a large freezer bag to repel creases (this also works well for silk ties) then lay – carefully – in your

luggage.

- Keep shoes from losing their shape by stuffing with socks and underwear – this also has the added advantage of freeing up extra case space.

Tooled up

In days gone by, dads would have a toolbox stashed, ready and waiting to finker with something. These days, Googling a local handyman is the norm, but there are times when a basic set of tools comes in handy. Here's what every practical parent should keep to hand at home.

- A set of watchmakers' screwdrivers. Toys requiring batteries almost always have tiny screws that need removing. Bonus points for magnetic tips that prevent these from rolling away, never to be seen again.
- Allen keys. Almost everything from Ikea starts with these, so you'll be glad

you have a set next time you move apartment.

- A tape measure. Confirm that you really do have space for your kid's new princess castle bed – ideally before it arrives at your door.
- Essential toy maintenance starts with superglue. Just keep well out of reach of small fingers.
- A torch. Keep this in an easily accessible drawer in case of power cuts. Also useful for Halloween spooky faces.

Best face forward

There's nothing like a wet shave to make the man of the hour feel like the James Bond of the auditing department. Here's a step-by-step guide to getting the closest shave possible outside of the barber's chair.

- Ensure pores are open by shaving after a hot shower, or by resting a face cloth soaked in as-hot-as-you-can-bear water over the face for a couple of minutes before you begin.
- Lather face with shaving soap and a natural-bristle shaving brush, which will deliver richer, thicker foam than from a can and will help to prevent nicks and cuts.
- Shave with – never against – the grain of your beard to avoid skin irritation.
- After your shave, rinse with cold water to close the pores.
- Apply an alcohol-free aftershave balm or moisturiser to calm the skin. Ignore the adverts and NEVER splash aftershave directly onto your face as this dries out the skin and will sting horribly! 🙄