

ORGANIZATION

Old photos stuck together

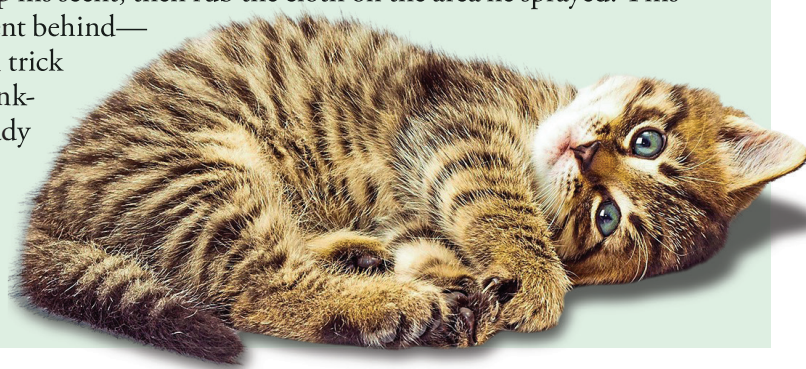
■ **SOLUTION:** Set a blow-dryer on low and hold it 8 to 10 inches away from where the pictures are joined for a few seconds. The warm (not hot) air loosens the bond without warping the delicate photo paper. **Tip:** To avoid future problems, store a few silica gel packets (the kind that come with new shoes or handbags) with your snapshots. The silica absorbs moisture that can cause photos to stick together.



PETS

Cat keeps marking his territory inside the house

■ **SOLUTION:** Start by cleaning the spot he sprayed with an enzyme cleaner. Next, rub a soft, clean cloth between your cat's eye and ear to pick up his scent, then rub the cloth on the area he sprayed. This leaves his scent behind—and that will trick him into thinking he's already marked the territory so he won't feel the need to refresh it.



COOKING

Pot lid knob is MIA

■ **SOLUTION:** Push a pointed screw up through the hole in the pot lid then twist a wine cork onto it from the top until it's secure. The heat-resistant, easy-to-grab cork will allow you to use the cookware safely. For extra stability, slip a washer between the screw and lid to keep the cork from wobbling.



PESTS

Bug-filled jack-o'-lantern

■ **SOLUTION:** Brush a generous amount of lemon juice along the carved edges inside your pumpkin. The strong citrus scent will deter insects from feasting on your Halloween decoration. **Bonus:** Lemon juice slows oxidation, which can cause the pumpkin to rot, so your jack-o'-lantern stays fresh longer. For even more staying power, repeat every few days.

Fallen leaves everywhere? TRY THESE SIMPLE HACKS!



PRO TIPS
from Lora
McLaughlin
Peterson

Lifestyle expert and television host who shares how to live a fabulous life for less. Find everyday home, kitchen and life hacks on her site LORAfied.com.

RAKE LIKE THIS

Skip the big leaf piles this year and rake into long, narrow rows instead! Raking into rows makes cleanup so much easier—you can just move down the line, bagging as you go, instead of wrestling with a giant heap of leaves. Simply start at one end of your lawn, place an open bag beside you and work your way down. This method causes less strain and it makes bagging faster. **Bonus:** Leaves in rows are less likely to blow away while you're working!

MOW INSTEAD

Don't feel like bagging leaves? Simply mow right over them! As the blades spin, they shred the leaves into confetti-like bits that fall between the grass instead of blanketing it. Those pieces break down to release nutrients that enrich the soil while helping it retain moisture and insulating grass roots against chilly temperatures. Just be sure the layer stays thin—if it's too thick, the leaves can block sunlight and smother the lawn.