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Things to Do

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Speedy services

Get what you need in a New York minute. *By Rebecca Fishbein*



Photograph: Krista Schlueter

Dry cleaning

Both Lincoln Terrace Cleaners locations (149 Amsterdam Ave between 66th and 67th Sts, 212-874-3066 • 1406 Second Ave between 73rd and 74th Sts, 212-288-8181 • ltercleaners.com) will pick up soiled duds (within a 60-block radius) before 10:30am, launder them and deliver the items back to you the same evening with no fee for the hurry. Outside Manhattan, you can stop by Lam's Dry Cleaning (74 Henry St at Orange St, Brooklyn Heights; 718-522-1162), where you can pick up garments by 3:30pm if you drop them off by 10am that morning, or eco-friendly Astoria Laundry (23-17 31st St between 23rd and 24th Aves, Astoria, Queens; 718-274-2000, astorialaundry.com), which has extended hours (6am–11pm). If you're willing to pay two or three times the normal price, the Queens cleaner will complete your order in less than a day, depending on what needs to be done (there's a premium for holidays).

Passport

When you need to renew or obtain a passport on the fly, your best bet is an expediting service like Trivisa (290 Fifth Ave between 30th and 31st Sts; 212-613-2223, trivisa.com). Make an appointment online and ensure you have all the requisite paperwork: two authorization letters (stating you give Trivisa permission to submit the documents on your behalf) notarized by a post office or court clerk; a government-issued passport form; a birth certificate or old passport; two regulation-size photos; a Trivisa service order form; and a proof of departure. The rush rate is steep—same-day emergency processing is \$199, on top of the already high government-instituted fees (\$170 for a new passport or renewal, plus a \$25 authorization fee if the passport is your first). But if you get approved for processing and submit your forms by 8am, you can pick up your credentials from Trivisa's office between 4pm and 5pm that afternoon.

Shoe repair

Cobbler Express (222 E 41st St between Second Ave and Tunnel Exit St, 212-867-7156 • 60 Wall St between Pearl and William Sts, 212-809-9814 • cobblerexpress.com) can do quick shines and repairs (\$3–\$25) while you wait. Bigger jobs like full-sole and heel fixes (women's shoes from \$49, men's shoes from \$60) might take a few more hours, but there's no extra charge for same-day service. Bonus: If you live in the nabe, the store will arrange gratis delivery.

Tailoring

Mustafa Kip, owner of Laura & Melinda (137 Rivington St between Norfolk and Suffolk Sts, 212-228-4500), can alter almost anything, from a pair of jeans to a dress or jacket and pants, in under a day for no additional dough. Prices start at \$10 for a simple hem job and rise to \$200 for a full suit alteration; more complex modifications might take an extra day or so to complete.

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Electronics, Menswear, Services, Shopping, Womenswear

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Shopping

Launched earlier this year, Suddenlee (suddenlee.com) is an online service that puts personal shoppers on the ground to source duds and accessories from more than 300 stores, including H&M and Zara. After installing Suddenlee's "Add to Suddenlee" button on your browser's toolbar, you can click on links to any store in the company's database and create a shopping bag filled with the items you're pining for. As long as you place your order by 3pm Monday through Friday, you'll receive your purchases the next business day. Convenience does come with a cost: The site charges a service fee ranging from \$10 to \$37, depending on your purchase total, plus \$2.50 per store, and spends over \$500 incur an 8 percent charge.

Bike repair

At Bicycle Habitat (244 and 250 Lafayette St between Prince and Spring Sts, 212-431-3315 • 476 Fifth Ave at 11th St, Park Slope, Brooklyn; 718-788-2543 • bicyclehabitat.com), skilled mechanics can fix flat tires and tend to tune-ups in just five to ten minutes. Most of the shop's same-day repairs are small jobs and fall into the \$7 to \$50 range. If you're in a pinch, the team can make bigger, more expensive fixes in a day, and there's no extra fee for the prompt action.

Computer repair

If you have a PC on the fritz or can't snag that last spot at the Apple Genius Bar, Laptop MD (248 W 35th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves; 212-920-4833, laptopmd.com) will hustle to get your machine running again. Same-day service costs an extra \$45, but most repairs can be done in a day or two on request. And if your iPhone screen cracks or shatters, the experts can replace it in just 10 to 20 minutes (3Gs \$59, iPhone 4 \$139).

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