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SP459-A Household Cleaning - Develop a Plan for Cleaning

The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service

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Develop a Plan for Cleaning

How often a home needs cleaning depends on the size and age of the house, its location, the season of the year, the size of the family and ages of its members, the number of pets, the type and style of furnishings, and the kinds of work and leisure activities the family does at home. Homes need cleaning more often when the family is large and does many things at home.

When planning your cleaning, remember that some cleaning jobs need to be done more often than others.

- Every day or every other day.
- Once a week.
- As needed.
- Seasonally (when a new season begins).

Remember to allow time for unexpected cleaning needs.

Do These Jobs Every Day

Kitchen

Wash dishes
Wipe counter tops, range and appliances
Clean sink
Empty garbage
Sweep or damp-mop floor
Clean table after every meal

Living Room

Tidy up
Put away or throw out papers and magazines

Bathroom

Clean sink and tub
Replace dirty towels
Empty wastepaper basket

Bedroom

Make beds
Put away clothes
Straighten dresser tops and accessories

Do These Jobs Every Week

Kitchen

Dispose of left-over foods
Clean refrigerator (a good time to do this is the day before you do the weekly shopping)
Clean floor
Clean garbage pail

Living Room

Clean floors and rugs
Dust and/or polish furniture
Dust and clean lamps and other decorative objects

Clean spots from walls, woodwork and furniture
Empty wastepaper baskets

Bathroom

Wash floor
Clean toilet bowl
Wipe tile surfaces
Clean mirrors
Clean toothbrush holder and other fixtures

Bedroom

Change sheets and pillow cases
Clean floors
Dust furniture
Empty wastepaper basket

Do These Jobs As Needed

Kitchen

Clean range top, burners and oven
Clean cabinets, drawers and other storage areas
Clean and wax floors
Clean window sill, frame and glass
Wash curtains
Clean walls, woodwork and ceiling
Defrost refrigerator

Living Room

Move and clean under furniture
Clean walls, woodwork and ceiling
Clean furniture, light fixtures, lamps, pictures and appliances

Bathroom

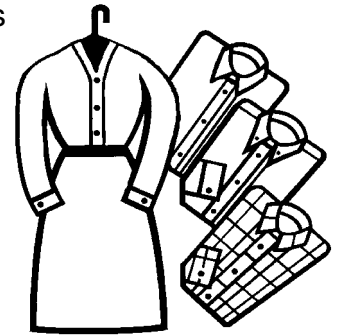
Clean walls, woodwork and ceiling
Wash bathmat, bathroom rug, curtains and shower curtain
Clean light fixtures
Throw away old medicines and empty bottles
Wash inside medicine cabinet

Bedroom

Clean walls, woodwork and ceiling
Clean and organize closets and dresser drawers
Clean furniture, light fixtures, mirrors and pictures
Wash windows, curtains, mattress cover and bedspread
Move and clean under furniture

Do These Jobs Seasonally

Clean closets thoroughly
Put away seasonal clothes and bedding
Store holiday decorations, sports equipment and other seasonal items
Store outdoor furniture
Clean screens



Follow Your Plan

- Put it on the wall so everyone can see it
- Let family members change jobs now and then
- Be sure to include occasional or seasonal jobs

Keep all cleaning products away from young children.

This factsheet was originally developed by Nayda I. Torres, Associate Professor, Family and Consumer Economics, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. The material has been adapted for use in Tennessee by Martha Keel, Associate Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences – Housing and Environmental Health.

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