

CLEANING YOU CAN DO IF YOU HAVE A PLAN



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Things You'll Need:

- Cleaning supplies
- 15 -20 minutes a day
- A 3-4 hour time block once a month

Daily:

Do a 15-20 minute Rapid Clean, focusing on a single room (vacuum, dust, straighten, etc.) or a single task (vacuuming as many rooms as you can in 20 minutes.) Ask your partner/spouse and older children to join in, and you double or more the amount of cleaning done. You can keep a little list to note what you cleaned each day. If you do this 365 days a year, then that's 5,475 minutes worth of cleaning! Stay on top of daily living tasks, like dishes. Keeping the clean ones put away means the dishwasher is free to load with dirty ones instead of leaving them in the sink.

Once a Month:

Do an intense cleaning, planning about 3-4 hours, for the whole house. Take the time to do things like baseboards, cobwebs, and light fixtures that may not get total attention during the daily cleanings. That's only 12 times a year, and it will work in tandem with your daily Rapid Cleans.

Clean like a Pro:

Ever wonder how we clean our customers' homes? We start at the far side of a room, top down and left to right. This allows us to

work efficiently and not forget to touch every surface. It also lets the dirt from up high fall down low and be totally cleaned. If you vacuum before you dust, you will get dust all over your newly vacuumed rug. Don't forget things like light bulbs (WHEN THEY ARE COOL), under chair cushions, baseboards, tops of cabinets, wall corners, door surfaces, closets and laundry rooms when you clean, either daily or monthly. They get dirty, and if you tackle them frequently, you'll have 365 days of a clean house.

Tools you'll need to clean:

Find things that help you clean rapidly and efficiently, like expandable **length dusters**. Use a small **whisk broom** to quickly clean things like drapes and chairs. Get a **carry-tote** that can hold all the things you want to use, so you don't keep going back and forth to find them. Buy convenience items like **disposable toilet brushes** if that makes you more enthused about cleaning. Microfiber cleaning clothes are great for mopping floors and cleaning counters as well as for dusting, so buy just a few because they are also re-usable and that helps save a tree or two.

Cleaning Products:

With the world going green buying environmentally safe cleaning products is the way to go. If you can, try to purchase any products that have a **Green Seal Certified** stamp on them. Just because the bottle is green, and the cleaner is green doesn't mean it's **green**. They all work great when used properly. You can even

consider using the old school recipes for cleaning with products you have in your home. Baking Soda, Lemon Juice, and white vinegar are great for at home uses when you ran out of the store bought cleaners.

Clean As You Go:

There is no time to clean something like the moment you are using it. Wiping down the clothes washer and dryer while you are doing laundry, cleaning out the microwave while the splatter is still liquid, getting the smudge on the window when you see it in the daylight are all ways to keep your house clean 365 days a year without a lot of extra effort.

There is also no time to put things in their proper place than the moment you finish using it before it ever leaves your hand. Put enough things down in the "I'll put it back in the drawer/cabinet/closet later" manner results in an untidy house very rapidly. This is especially true when you have children.

Organize, Organize, Organize:

Create storage boxes for each family member so there is a tidy place to put backpacks, purses, shoes, etc. They stay in one place, look neat, and are easy to clean around - no picking up a lot of stuff.

Keep cleaning supplies in a central location.

You can load your carry-tote with what you need, keep an eye on your inventory of cleaning items, and return everything there when you are finished.

Make simple cleaning lists to hand out to each family member who will be helping during Rapid Cleans and Intense Cleans - you will spend less time on directions, and they won't forget part of their task. Laminate them, or put them in a plastic sleeve, and they'll last a long time.

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