Keeping it Clean: Plan Your Cleaning

Mary N. Harrison, Amanda Griffin, and Randall A. Cantrell

Clean as You Go

The clean-as-you-go plan makes it easy to have a clean and orderly home.

• Develop a basic cleaning schedule. Keep it simple and stick to it.
• Plan projects that you can complete in the time allotted.
• Involve your family. All members working together help make it easier to keep your home in good condition.

Tasks to Do Immediately

The following tasks should be done immediately:

• Hang up clothing and coats as soon as you take them off.
• Put dirty clothes in the hamper.
• Clean dishes as soon as you finish eating.
• Make your bed when you get out of it.
• Put items back in their place after you use them.
• Vacuum or mop spills so they do not leave stains on carpet.

Tasks to Do Less Often

Examples of tasks that you do less often:

• Change the bed sheets each week.
• Do the family laundry weekly or more often if needed.
• Wash windows each spring (or as needed).
• Dust weekly.


2. Mary N. Harrison, retired professor, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences; Amanda Griffin, former Extension agent I; UF/IFAS Extension, Jackson County; and Randall A. Cantrell, assistant professor, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.
• Clean bathrooms weekly: toilets, sinks, counters, mirrors, and tubs.

• Change the filter in your furnace/air conditioner monthly (or as recommended by the manufacturer).

• Clean out the refrigerator of spills and outdated foods/drinks.

• Clean out the cabinets of outdated foods.

**Remember: Scheduled household tasks are manageable unless the schedule is neglected!**