



The Basics of Housekeeping

The Goal

“...the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed” (Titus 2:3-5).

Tips

- ✓ A Place for everything, and everything in its place.
 1. List the activities that happen in each room.
 2. List what supplies are needed for those activities.
 3. Decide where the supplies will be stored.
 4. Eliminate all the unnecessary things.
 5. Keep the beautiful.

- ✓ Reduce visual clutter.

Get rid of things you don't need.

1. A Use Container
2. A Keep Container
3. A Give-Away Container
4. A Throw-Away Container

- ✓ A Time to put everything away.

Walk through the house once a day simply to declutter.

✓ Whose Job Is It?????

It's not all Mom's job.

Delegate freely.

Make it a teaching opportunity.

Be sure you do the job first, so you know the way you want it done.

✓ Put old projects away before getting new projects out.

Start with toddlers putting their toys away.

Model good behavior.

Put away school supplies when school is done.

Put away one subject before starting a new subject.

✓ Projects need homes, too.

✓ Teach your children to put things away.

✓ Help the forgetful people in your home.

Get into a rhythm and routine – so that habits are formed.

Allow time for those habits to form.

Revisit your schedule every 3 months or so.

Check that there is a good system if things start to be forgotten.

Consequences can be applied if it's a character issue.

“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat” (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

✓ Make a plan for the occasional jobs.

3”x5” cards in a box:

- dividers for each day of the week

- dividers for each week of the month

- dividers for each month of the year

Or use software, such as <https://nozbe.com>.

✓ Passover is a great time for spring cleaning.

Passover Preparation from Christine Miller:

<https://www.alittleperspective.com/preparing-for-passover/>

- ✓ Eliminate the mental clutter.

Avoid too much noise and mental distraction.
Whatever you're doing, do it all there.

- ✓ As a mother, you're the teacher.

Home management is a subject that must be taught in homeschooling, as much as academic subjects.

Lead by example.

Verify that work is being done the way you taught it.

“Don't expect what you won't inspect.”

Schedule times that you'll inspect their work.

Housekeeping Jobs to Include:

Daily:

Make beds

Dirty clothes

Wipe counters, sinks, toilets

Kitchen clean immediately

Vacuum & sweep floors

Toys put away

Rules where food can be eaten

School put away

Mail, paperwork, packages

Kitty litter, animal care

Garden & houseplant care

Weekly:

Sabbath prep

Big cleaning jobs

Seasonal jobs

- ✓ Clean together when possible.
- ✓ Keep supplies at their point of use.
- ✓ Clean in a circle around a room (top to bottom).
- ✓ Clean quickly.

“Well done, good and faithful servant!”

A Few More Considerations:

- ✓ Have a designated spot for things that are leaving the house (bottles, returns, packages, things to donate, etc.).
- ✓ Have a spot for things coming in the house (keys, mail, Bibles, coats, shoes, etc.).
- ✓ Have lists so that you don't forget things.
- ✓ Automate your life! Make habits!
- ✓ Toys and crafts are a privilege, not a right.

In Summary:

1. A place for everything
2. A time for everything
3. A procedure for everything