

Quick Cleaning & Organizing Tips From Each Other...

Kristy - Keep a tote of cleaning supplies that you use on a regular basis underneath each sink throughout your home. This way you save time and energy not having to carry around your cleaning supplies throughout your home.

LeeAnne – Have set days during the week that you do your house hold chores i.e. Monday- Laundry, Tuesday – Dusting, Wednesday - Bathrooms, kitchen Vacuum basement, Thursday – Bathroom, kitchen and vacuum upstairs, Friday – Grocery Shop, Saturday – Play. Some days may be heavier cleaning days based on the amount of time you have.

Sandy – When you clean your windows put a capful of ERA liquid detergent into a bucket and fill with water. This actually gives your windows a sheen on them. I then use a squeegee to do all my windows and then just dry the edges with a clean dry towel. They look beautiful.

Angie – We have a weekly job chart where the kids have to mark off their jobs daily. This helps so that we don't have to ask time and time again the kids just know what is expected of them.

Diana – Have a schedule instead of wasting time deciding what to do in regards to chores. Have specific chores on a set day. It is less overwhelming. Have your children know ahead of time their responsibilities and specific guidelines for how and when it is to be done and follow through with making sure it gets completed.

Liz – Go through your kids toys, the older ones or the toys they don't play with anymore pack them away for two months, then ask your kids if they still want them or if they should donate to charity.

Monica – Make a list of large chores one per person including mom and dad, and a list of smaller chores, do rock, paper scissors to decide who gets to pick first. On large chores the person who picks 1st picks last on smaller chores. If they don't complete the chores in a timely manner or in a way that pleases “dear sweet mom”, thank them for volunteering to do extra chores and tell them that is really kind of them to help you out!

Corinne - Don't look in the fridge or cupboard for ideas for dinner, look in a cookbook. Make a collection of “approved” recipes on 3x5 cards and put in a box. 3 ring binders work well for computer printouts.

Dawn – We started out young for chores and told the kids organizing and running a home was a family job. We went on to say that it wasn't women's or man's work, but the family as a whole. If you belong to the family you helped the family. We tried to have the house tidied each night before bed so that the next day it was clean and we were “ahead” of schedule. To start the new day off with a clean home is a great feeling.

Danielle – Don't be afraid to teach your children to work. If they make a mess, they can clean it up. It takes hard work for me to teach them but it's worth it in the end.

Jill – Create a “standard” for each chore. Take a picture of it and list a description of what is “up to standard.” Place these in a book. Instead of you being the bad guy, the children can just look in the book and make sure their chores are “up to standard.”