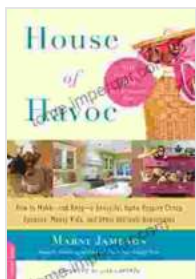


# How to Make and Keep a Beautiful Home Despite Cheap Spouses, Messy Kids, and Other Obstacles

Maintaining a beautiful home can seem like an impossible feat when you're surrounded by messy kids, uncooperative spouses, and other challenges. But with the right strategies and a bit of determination, it's entirely achievable. This comprehensive guide will equip you with expert tips and practical solutions to transform your home into a spotless sanctuary without overwhelming yourself.

## 1. Establish a Regular Cleaning Schedule

Consistency is key when it comes to keeping your home clean. Create a realistic cleaning schedule that works for your lifestyle and stick to it. Break down tasks into smaller, manageable chunks and allocate them to specific days of the week or times of day. By incorporating cleaning into your daily routine, you can prevent messes from accumulating and maintain a clean home with minimal effort.



### House of Havoc: How to Make -- and Keep -- a Beautiful Home Despite Cheap Spouses, Messy Kids, and Other Difficult Roommates by Marni Jameson

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 785 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 290 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported

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**WEEKLY cleaning**

**DAILY**

- wipe counters
- make beds
- wash dishes
- one load of laundry
- take out trash
- clean kitchen floor in the evening

**MONDAY (bathrooms)**

- clean toilets
- clean sinks, tubs & showers
- clean towels & bathmats
- wash bath mats & replace towels
- sweep & mop floors

**TUESDAY (living room)**

- straighten shelves & cabinets
- vacuum, sweep & mop
- wash windows & blinds
- organize toys & declutter

**WEDNESDAY (kitchen)**

- clean stove / cooktop
- clean counter tops
- wipe down fridge & freezer
- clean inside microwave
- sweep & mop floors

**THURSDAY (bedrooms)**

- dust & vacuum
- change bed sheets
- organize & declutter
- sort dirty laundry
- clean windows & blinds
- straighten closets & drawers

**FRIDAY (halls & stairs)**

- dust & vacuum
- straighten shoes, coats & slippers
- wipe off walls & doors
- dust ceiling fans & light fixtures
- straighten & declutter closets

**WEEKEND (outdoors)**

- sweep porch & patio
- clean & organize garage
- mow lawn & clean out weed beds
- clean out cars

**MISC.**

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## 2. Keep It Tidy as You Go

One of the best ways to prevent overwhelming messes is to tidy up as you go. Make it a habit to put things back where they belong immediately after using them. Wipe up spills as soon as they happen and clear away clutter

before it accumulates. By staying ahead of messes, you can prevent them from becoming a major chore later on.



### **3. Divide and Conquer**

When faced with large cleaning tasks, don't try to tackle everything at once. Divide the job into smaller, more manageable sections. Focus on one room or area at a time and break down the tasks into smaller steps. This will make the task less daunting and more achievable, preventing you from feeling overwhelmed.



#### **4. Delegate and Involve Family Members**

Don't try to shoulder the entire cleaning burden alone. Enlist the help of family members, even the little ones. Assign age-appropriate tasks to children and create a system where everyone contributes to the upkeep of the home. Delegating tasks not only lightens your load but also teaches children responsibility and the importance of cleanliness.



## 5. Keep Clutter to a Minimum

Clutter is one of the biggest culprits of a messy home. Regularly declutter your belongings and get rid of anything you don't use or need. Use storage solutions to keep essential items organized and out of sight. By minimizing clutter, you'll reduce the amount of time you spend cleaning and create a more spacious and serene living environment.



## 6. Use Multipurpose Products and Tools

Simplify your cleaning routine by using multipurpose products that tackle multiple tasks. Choose cleaning solutions that can be used on various surfaces, eliminating the need for separate products. Invest in versatile tools like microfiber cloths that can be used for dusting, cleaning, and

polishing. By minimizing the number of products and tools you need, you'll save time and storage space.



## 7. Make Cleaning Fun and Rewarding

Cleaning doesn't have to be a chore. Find ways to make it more enjoyable and rewarding. Play music, listen to podcasts, or audiobooks while you clean. Set small goals for yourself and reward yourself when you complete



them. By making cleaning a positive experience, you'll be more likely to stick to your schedule and maintain a clean home.



## **8. Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Help**

If you find yourself struggling to keep up with the cleaning, don't hesitate to ask for help. Seek support from family, friends, or consider hiring a cleaning



service. There are also numerous online resources and support groups where you can connect with others and find tips and encouragement.



## **9. Be Realistic and Adjust As Needed**

It's important to be realistic about your cleaning goals. Don't set yourself up for failure by aiming for perfection. Instead, focus on maintaining a level of cleanliness that works for you and your family. Adjust your schedule and strategies as needed to find a balance that fits your lifestyle and ensures you can maintain a clean home without sacrificing your sanity.

# A REALISTIC CLEANING SCHEDULE

## DAILY:

### Kitchen:

- Fill and run dishwasher
- Hand wash anything left in sink
- Wipe counters, table, and appliance tops
- Sweep floor
- Take out trash and recycling

### Bedrooms:

- Make beds
- Laundry in hamper
- Put away toys, books, etc.,

### Bathrooms:

- Put dirty clothes in hamper.
- Return toothbrushes to holder
- Hang up towels

### Laundry:

- Wash, dry, fold, and put away one load

### General:

- Pick up clutter and put away

## WEEKLY:

### Monday:

- Clean Kitchen
- Clean fronts of appliances
- Wipe down inside of microwave
- Clean Sink
- Sweep and mop floor

### Tuesday:

- Dust and vacuum bedrooms

### Wednesday:

- Dust and vacuum main living areas

### Thursday:

- Empty all small trash cans trash

### Friday:

- Dust and vacuum bedrooms

### Saturday:

- Bathrooms

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## 10. Embrace the Imperfect

Finally, remember that a perfectly clean home is not always achievable, especially with a busy lifestyle. Don't stress over every little mess or imperfection. Focus on creating a home that is comfortable, functional, and enjoyable for you and your family. Embrace the imperfect moments and

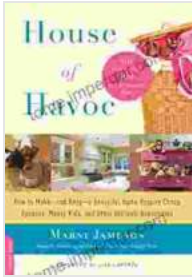
laugh off the occasional spills or clutter. Maintaining a clean home is a journey, not a destination. Be patient, persistent, and enjoy the process.



By implementing these strategies, you can create a beautiful and clean home despite the challenges of busy lives. Remember, it's not about perfection but about finding a way to maintain a clean and organized space that works for you and your family. Embrace the principles of consistency, organization, and acceptance, and you'll be amazed at how effortless keeping a clean home can be.

Wishing you all a clean and harmonious home!

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