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House Cleaning Management and Methods

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Every homemaker has a standard of cleanliness for her home. She may not be conscious of her standard, but if it is high she feels uncomfortable when her house is disordered or dirty. The pressure of preparing meals, doing the laundry, caring for children, or working at personal or professional interests outside the home may make it impossible to keep her home up to the standard she wishes to attain. Sometimes working out a definite but flexible plan and checking on methods and equipment makes cleaning easier and simpler.

Planning a Cleaning Schedule

Cleaning is the removal of dirt from the paint, varnish, fabric, enamel, glass, metal, and other surfaces in the home.

Dirt has been described as matter out of place. Just as weeds in a garden are plants out of place which may eventually choke out flowers and vegetables, so dust from the earth, soot, and oily smoke, which filter into the house or come from heating and cooking equipment, may eventually ruin the hardest surfaces.

A thin film of dirt is easily and quickly removed. If it is permitted to accumulate, it cakes and hardens. Surfaces then may be damaged by the more drastic measures that are necessary to clean them. Many surfaces require only brushing or light treatment with soap and water if they are cleaned frequently; but if they are neglected until abrasives must be used to grind off the dirt on painted or varnished surfaces and the corrosion on metals, the surfaces are permanently affected and the job becomes difficult, time-consuming, and fatiguing. The economic value of frequent, light cleaning is important because it reduces the cost of refinishing and replacements.

Keeping out dirt The management of household cleaning revolves around prevention of the accumulation of dirt. It includes plans for keeping as much of it as possible out and for systematic and frequent removal of what inevitably gets into the house.

In rural sections and small towns, where roads are not hard-surfaced, homemakers will find it to their advantage to urge that they be oiled or regularly sprinkled wherever it is possible to obtain this service. Smoke and dirt-abatement campaigns in cities are making some progress; greater emphasis upon this phase of community life would cut down on house-cleaning labor and costs.

Walks should lead to the doors most used in farm homes, as they usually do in small town and city homes. Mats at outer doors help to prevent tracking dirt into the house. Daily sweeping of walks and porches takes less time in the end than cleaning up dirt after it has been tracked in, and saves wear on rugs