

# Buried Under Mt. Laundry!

## (Household Helps and Hopes)

I trudge wearily from the dryer to the bedroom with another armload of laundry. Bad plan. I realize that in order to go to sleep, I can't have laundry all over my bed. Slowly I gather the clean loads and take them to the couch. I'm too tired to deal with it tonight. Drat! I have company coming first thing in the morning. Return to the couch. Take as much as possible the first trip then go back for the remaining. Yes, I stuffed them all back into the dryer. Well, at least I can go to sleep now. I'm sure glad I got the extra large capacity dryer.

You laugh, I'm sure. But, it isn't far from the truth sometimes! Although it is far from being fair, the state of the household is one vantage point from which people judge the competency of the Mom of the household. That's a lot of pressure for us Mom's, particularly those of us who are schooling their children at home. Everyone in the house contributes to household clutter. Yet truly, who cares as much as Mom whether or not the house is clean. (Yes, I am totally generalizing here.) So...what can be done?

Having a large family and a house we wish were bigger to live in, it is impossible to keep an immaculate residence. My kids will say I am a clean freak. I'm not. I just like basic cleanliness. That's not too much to ask for, is it? Yet, I frequently find myself commenting to visitors, "Pardon the mess". Why am I confessing this to you? I guess I want you to know that I am completely human. I often have people say to me, "I don't know how you do it all." What these people fail to see is that I really don't do it all!

Back to the question "what can be done?" Definitely don't use me for your role model if you want that immaculate residence. I try, but I fall far short of perfection. I have learned a few tricks from people smarter than I am. I like to admire other people's clean homes and see what I can glean from their superior knowledge. I share these things I have learned with you fellow home schoolers because a teaching mom wears many hats. Keeping some sense of cleanliness and order in the house are important for sanity. It is very difficult to teach the children if you yourself have reached the brink of insanity. Hope you will find something of value here.

- ✓ If you can't get to anything else in the day, try to make at least one small section of the house clean so you can at least have something nice to look at for a few moments before bedtime. ☺
- ✓ Do at least one 5 minute task each day. 5 minute tasks are things like cleaning out one kitchen drawer, washing the splash board behind the sink, clean one window, dusting one blind thoroughly, reorganizing one bookshelf, straightening one side of the desk, emptying out the pencil bucket and throwing away dried out markers and such, etc. Make yourself a list of your own personalized 5 minute chores and tape them up in a convenient location.
- ✓ Keep wet wipes in a bathroom cupboard. Use them to do a quick wipe down of the sinks and counters daily.

- ✓ Teach the kids to do their own laundry. By the time they are eight, they know how to distinguish dark colors from light and can read well enough to turn the washer knob to normal wash! You can also assign an older child to do toddler laundry.
- ✓ Obviously teaching kids to clean up after themselves is a great idea. Often it is easier said than done. Kids can certainly help do dishes after meals, have Saturday chores, clean their rooms etc. Probably the biggest trick is trying to figure out how to get it done in less kid-like fashion!
- ✓ One lady I know with a very clean home and great fashion sense told me this tip. When you are done in the shower, take your damp towel and use your two feet to scoot the towel back and forth all over the floor. Then just toss your towel in the laundry basket. Voila! A freshly mopped floor! (Crazy, but it does work.)
- ✓ I was also surprised to learn a trade secret from a friend who kept a very tidy house. She had a drawer or cupboard in each room specifically for quickly stashing things!
- ✓ I will often take a box or basket and make a quick run around the main areas of the house and toss anything into it that doesn't belong. I then put it in the hallway by the kids bedrooms and assign them to put everything in their proper locations.
- ✓ Assign the kids a specific number of items to clean up.
- ✓ Set a timer and make it a contest to see how good a room can be made to look in three minutes.
- ✓ Choose your battles. I am pretty adamant about my kids keeping their school books in good order on their shelves. I am not so strict about the order of their toys.

Please feel free to share more quick and easy tips. And, by the way, if you ever come to my house...Peeking in the dryer is not allowed!

Maki—2007

[homeschool@completelee.com](mailto:homeschool@completelee.com)

[www.completelee.com](http://www.completelee.com)

[www.completeleesports.com](http://www.completeleesports.com)