

Coming Clean – Tips to Keep on Top of Your Home's Dirtiest Rooms

North Olmsted, Ohio... Household chores are a never-ending reality of life. In fact, on average women spend more than two hours a day on household activities, which include housework and cooking*. Yet, there's still always something to clean when keeping up with kids, pets and a hectic schedule. Tackle your home's dirtiest rooms with these quick tips to make chores easier and more effective so you can have a tidy, sparkling home in no time.

Getting Started

House cleaning is not a pleasant task, so pump yourself up by creating a cleaning playlist to make chores more entertaining. If you're lacking motivation, nothing will get you off the couch faster than a rockin' soundtrack. It can also be fun to time yourself during tasks; as you'll be surprised that most of the chores listed below can be completed in 10 minutes or less. Ready – set – start cleaning!

Kitchen Cleaning

- **Dishwasher Duty**

Once a week, shake baking soda on a damp sponge and wipe around the machine's edges to remove stuck-on food or stains. To clean the inside, run an empty cycle with Dishwasher Magic, a product designed to kill bacteria like E.coli. During cold and flu season, add a quarter-cup of bleach to the regular dish cycle to kill bacteria. The dishes will be safe and sanitized after the rinse cycle is finished.

- **Zap the Sponge**

We all know that sponges can be a breeding ground for bacteria. Disinfect yours every night by squeezing excess water out and microwaving it on high for a minute. When it's worn and smelly, replace with a new one.

- **Disinfect the Kitchen Sink**

A sparkling sink becomes your kitchen's benchmark for hygiene and tidiness. Moen makes cleaning the sink easier with its new Walden™ pullout kitchen faucet, available exclusively at The Home Depot, featuring the innovative Reflex® system (\$198**). Its self-retracting wand helps fill large pots and the ergonomic design helps improve rinsing in and around the sink. Additionally, the Walden faucet features Microban®*** antimicrobial protection – built in to the

faucet finish – to help inhibit the growth of stain-and odor-causing bacteria, mold and mildew.

- **Refrigerator Refresh**

It's important to make sure your refrigerator is always clean and odorless, especially if you are expecting guests. One trick to get rid of smells is to open a canister of oatmeal and place it in the fridge for a few days to absorb any unappealing odors.

Maintain Beauty in the Bath

- **Tackle the Toilet**

Whether you like it or not, the toilet requires frequent cleaning. For a thorough wipe down, spray a disinfecting bathroom cleaner or chlorine bleach into the bowl and allow either product to sit for 10 minutes to fully annihilate germs, bacteria and viruses. To maintain the cleanliness, pour one cup of baking soda into the bowl each week to keep it fresh. And finally, once a month pour a half-gallon of white vinegar into the bowl to keep it ring-free. Let it soak overnight before flushing.

- **Scour the Shower**

Showers are also a breeding ground for bacteria and mildew – feasting on body oils and soap scum. Make shower doors shine by rubbing a teaspoon of lemon oil on glass shower doors twice a month, this will cause water to bead up and roll off. Or, try Rain-X Original Glass Treatment, a car-care product made to keep rainwater off your windshield. Use it twice a year. For easy maintenance, after each shower, clean the stall or tub and tiles with a squeegee.

- **Spotless Sinks**

After your family finishes brushing their teeth or shaving, use a dry terrycloth hand towel on the mirror and bathroom faucets to wipe away spots of lather so they won't build up. For a spotless fixture around the clock, consider the new Moen® Ashville™ bathroom faucet (\$89**) featuring Microban antimicrobial protection. The faucet is available at The Home Depot in Moen's exclusive Spot Resist™ Brushed Nickel finish, which resists fingerprints and water spots to maintain the brilliance of the fixture.

Living Room

- **Take Care of Toys**

Gather stuffed toys, where dust mites, mold and pet dander can accumulate, and wash them in hot water and dry completely before using again. Place stuffed toys that can't be

washed in the freezer for 24 hours, then rinse in cold water to remove dead mites, and dry completely.

- **Eliminating Pet Hair**

If you're having a difficult time removing pet hair from furniture and other fabric surfaces, put on a wet rubber dishwashing glove and wipe your hand over surfaces. The hair will stick right to it.

- **Perfectly Polished**

Make polishing fun. Turn on your favorite music, dampen a pair of old socks with furniture cleanser or polish and dust to the beat. You also can put those socks on your feet and "dance" over dirty floors.

- **Stop Clutter at the Front Door**

Mount a plastic or cloth shoe rack inside your front entry closet door, and use it to stash all kinds of living and family room miscellany—toys, hats, gloves, magazines, etc. You can even designate one of the pockets for mail you're not sure whether to save or toss.

Cleaning the home doesn't have to be a strenuous task. By creating a checklist of key items to tackle routinely, you'll keep on top of your home's dirtiest rooms.

For more information about Moen products, visit moen.com or call 1-800-BUY-MOEN.

##

**Bureau of Labor Statistics American Time Use Survey, 2012.*

***Prices may vary by region.*

****Microban® is a registered trademark of Microban International, Ltd. Used with permission.*

About Moen

As the #1 faucet brand in North America, Moen offers a diverse selection of thoughtfully designed kitchen and bath faucets, showerheads, accessories, bath safety products and kitchen sinks for residential applications – each delivering the best possible combination of meaningful innovation, useful features, on-trend styling and lasting value. In addition, Moen® Commercial offers superior performing products that deliver lower lifetime costs for today's facilities.

Moen has worked diligently to support, promote and advance sustainability within the organization and the plumbing industry. The company has been recognized with the 2011 EPA WaterSense® Excellence Award, as well as the 2010 EPA WaterSense Manufacturer Partner of the Year Award, for its work to protect the future of our nation's water supply through the introduction and ongoing support of water-efficient products, programs and practices, while keeping consumers' needs top-of-mind.

Moen is part of Fortune Brands Home & Security, Inc. (NYSE: FBHS), which creates products and services that help fulfill the dreams of homeowners and help people feel more secure. The company is a leader in the home and security industries and features well-known and trusted brands like Moen® faucets, Master Lock® padlocks and security products, MasterBrand Cabinets®, Therma-Tru® entryway systems and Simonton Windows®. For more information, please visit www.fbhs.com.

WaterSense is a registered trademark of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

About Microban

Microban International, Ltd. is a global technology and marketing company dedicated to enhancing high quality consumer, industrial and medical products with branded built-in protection from microbes. Microban International licenses the Microban® global brand name, sells custom-engineered compounds, and provides a range of services, including regulatory and marketing support. The Microban® brand promises continuous and durable antimicrobial product protection, built-in during manufacture to not wear out for the useful life of the product. Microban International is headquartered in North Carolina with operations in North America, Europe and Asia. For more information on Microban, please contact (704) 875-0806 or visit www.microban.com.

Contact: Jennifer Allanson or Kristi Stolarski
Falls Communications
(216) 696-0229
jallanson@fallscommunications.com
kstolarski@fallscommunications.com