



HOME EXPRESSIONS



Turn housecleaning into a fun family project

No one likes to do it. In fact, according to a recent phone survey conducted by Black & Decker, today's busy families are spending much less time cleaning house and are willing to tolerate lower standards of cleanliness. Still, everyone agrees that semiannual major cleanings (in the spring and fall) are probably a good idea. So why not turn a major housecleaning chore into a fun family project?

Kids certainly do their fair share of messing up. According to the survey, almost 50 per cent of the women said their kids and teens make the biggest messes in the house. Of the men surveyed, almost 35 per cent blamed the

biggest messes on kids and teens.

A family cleanup not only makes a big job a lot less daunting, but also teaches kids the importance of cleaning up after themselves. Once they see how long it takes to clean, they may think twice about leaving those clothes or toys laying around.

Family cleanup days also provide a great opportunity to spend some quality family time, as well as provide a sense of accomplishment and pride in the family home.

There are several ways to involve the whole family in a cleanup. Here are a few suggestions:

✓ Divide the house into sections (each family member getting a room or two to clean top to bottom).

✓ Put all the tasks into a hat (floors, walls, windows, etc.) and have everyone draw out which task they are responsible for.

✓ Set up a reward system (first and last ones done get prizes; family judges each room and votes on cleanest, etc.).

Even the smallest family member can contribute with today's easy-to-use appliances. A 5-year-old could easily use a Dust-buster to make sure every corner in the house is free from dust and cobwebs.

So pick a Saturday or Sunday

(well in advance so no one's plans are ruined), turn up the music, take out the mops and get the whole family cleaning.

Then, when the house is spic and span, end the day with a trip to the family's favorite burger joint to celebrate a job well-done.

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