

LAUNDRY ROOM

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR EACH ROOM/AREA YOU DECLUTTER/CLEAN... If you haven't needed it, worn it, looked at it, or used it in a year (6 months if you really want to be ruthless) than GET RID OF IT! Quit keeping them *INCASE*... Jesus may come back before you use them, so bless someone else and give them away!

Before beginning, make sure you have a:

- "KEEP" box (to go through after you're done with the room)
- "THROW" bag
- "BLESS" bag (for garage sale or to give away)

Keep those words in mind while you're cleaning/de-cluttering/organizing each room! "Keep, Throw, Bless"... MEMORIZE THEM... TAKE THEM TO HEART... THEY ARE YOUR FRIEND! (Tee hee...)

To make sure you have as little interruption as possible, the following ideas are helpful as well:

- have your phone in your cleaning kit (so it doesn't get lost) or let the answering machine get it (which is what I would suggest so you don't get stuck talking on the phone!)
- have water to drink (you could have little water bottles for the kids too if they're helping)
- music to get ya movin'
- your organizer with the "To Do" List filled out so you can be checking things off as you go

Okay... after you've done that, it's time to get cleaning! The following is a list of ideas that might help in cleaning your laundry room:

- Begin by taking a picture of the room before you get going... seriously... TAKE A PICTURE! This will be evidence... um, I mean, this will be an encouragement when you're done and you see what you've accomplished!
- Before going any further, are you caught up in laundry? If not, then begin by putting in a load and continue washing and drying the clothes until you're all finished. This will help you to complete the room without having to do laundry when you're done.
 - It may help for you to have baskets or boxes to be separating the clothes as they come out of the dryer. I would suggest staying in the laundry room and either having older children put their own clothes away, or take care of the clothes baskets at specified times you might need a break or after you're done in the room. Remember, if you have a tendency to get side-tracked, that staying in the laundry room and taking care of these baskets should probably wait until the laundry room is done!
 - Also, if there are clothes that are too small, have holes, or aren't in season, then set those aside as they come out of the dryer. Put them in a separate basket/box to care of (whether you keep that stuff in the laundry room, or storage area).
- Now, begin in the furthest corner of the LAUNDRY ROOM. Begin the "bulldozing" process, top to bottom (or whatever method you choose... the bulldozing process is simply moving through the room like a bulldozer... starting at the top and working your way to the floor in continually moving to the doorway putting things in the designated Keep, Throw, Bless boxes/bags).
- Get any cobwebs or dust bunnies off the ceiling, ceiling fan, or light fixtures. This might be the time you decide to wash the light fixtures as well. (Bugs are NOT supposed to be in there by the way... did I just reveal something?...)

- Do your curtains need washing? Put them to the washing machine as well and get that load going while you continue to clean. (*Note: MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CURTAINS/DRAPERY IS WASHABLE! The first time I did mine, they shrunk about an inch!*) If you have blinds, what do they look like? Taking them down and washing them either outside or in the tub is an easy way to get them clean. They can just sit in there and soak. A sponge should get them clean by just wiping. Don't forget to rinse them.
- While you have your window treatments down, wash those windows and window sills (trim work).
- Do your walls need any touch up paint, or can you just wash the little handprints off? Don't forget the switch plates as well.
- Dust or clean (using cleaner) any wall hangings.
- Do you have cabinets or shelving that needs to be organized or cleaned out? Take everything out (one shelf at a time if you choose) and then clean and put back (only NEEDED) items.
- Clean your washing machine... inside and out.
 - Get any dust or "gunk" out of the inside of both (especially the washer)
 - If you add fabric softener to your washer, make sure that's cleaned out as well.
 - Get the lint out of your dryer (that's supposed to be cleaned out after or before each load... or so my sister told me... tee hee)
 - Clean the outside of both as well
 - While you're at it, if you have any detergent bottles or anything that sits out, does it need dusting or washing off as well?
- Do you have a sink? Clean it out.
- Wipe/wash the trim work (baseboards) off (a great job for the kids as well!).
- If you have a rug, then take care of that, do you need to take it out to shake, vacuum or shampoo it?
- Don't forget your vents. Depending on what kind you have, do you need to take the hose to them and vacuum them out?
- Finish by vacuuming (or washing/scrubbing your floor if you have hardwood).
- Once you've finished the room, take your "KEEP, THROW, BLESS" bags and boxes out. This is important! (Don't forget to clean the garbage can out in there as well.) Put the garbage one in the garbage... DO NOT leave it by the door for later... DO IT NOW! If you're going to give the "Bless" bag to charity, or something similar, then put it in the vehicle RIGHT NOW! If you plan on having a garage sale, then take it to the garage, and put the "Keep" box in a place where you will go through soon (while watching TV is a great time to do this, or in the evening while the kids are in bed... put some music in and spend time with the Lord talking about the day).
- Take an "after" picture! (I like to light a smelly candle after I've cleaned a room. Just an added touch for my husband to walk into when he gets home. Another touch could be flowers too.)

- Step back and pat yourself on the back! Great job! "X" it out on the "**Clean Heart, Clean Home Challenge" At A Glance Calendar!**
- Now that things are clean, do you need to establish a system that will help you keep your laundry room clean and caught up?
 - Check out your schedule and evaluate what you might do to keep it this way.
 - How many loads of laundry do you need to do a day? Make sure you have them written in on your schedule (at least until it becomes a habit).
 - Do you put the kids' clothes away, or are they old enough to do that? Make sure that's on the schedule as well.
 - Is there anything you could do to make your laundry room function better?
 - Do you need some shelving or a place to put your detergent and cleaners?
 - Would a basket for each child to put away their clean clothes away help out?
 - What do you keep the dirty clothes in? (I have a hamper with three containers to keep loads separated. I love it!)