

SCHOOL 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 school 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!
- Start in the furthest corner of the SCHOOL 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? Take them to the washing machine if so 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 (chalk board, wipe erase board, etc.). If you have any maps, bulletin boards, or calendars, make sure they're in neat condition and organized. If you need to get them replaced, write it down on your notes and move on.
- Wipe off any tables, desks, chairs, or other furniture in there.
- Organize any toys or "educational things" for the kids. Re-evaluate your "supply". There are so many products out there for little ones to do while trying to teach the older ones. Be sure you have enough, but not too much. If you have things you want to keep, but it's just too hard to keep it all organized, then put some things away to bring out for later (and then you can put the other things away) or have a day for each thing (for example: Monday is puzzles and games, Tuesday is drawing/coloring, etc.) to bring out in a bin. *NOTE: If you have things to keep your little ones occupied, then be sure you have a place to put the things, and train your little ones to pick up after they're done. It will start a habit and help you out in the long run!*
- Go through any homeschool items you have. There are so many materials/curriculums that are great out there. Make sure you haven't gotten too much and become overwhelmed. If you're not using something, bless someone else. This is something I struggled with, because I felt bad in buying something and not using it... so I kept everything "just in case". But I realized I had gotten to the point where I felt bad that I wasn't using everything and always felt behind, trying to get it all done. I have felt so much better in getting rid of the things that I don't use, trusting the Lord to provide for me and apologizing to Him for not spending my money in the best manner all the time when dealing with curriculum... and I've seen a sale!. (Having said that, you can be thinking of what you might need for the coming year and making note of that too.)
- 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! 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!**