

Cleaning Badge

(written by Doreen Olson)



Otter (do four requirements including the 2 starred)

- 1.* How does good housekeeping help to maintain a home? Which chores should be done daily, weekly, and monthly? Which chores can you help with? Find a daily chore you can do by yourself and do it faithfully for one week.
- 2.* Find a weekly chore you can do by yourself or with very little help. Do the weekly chore four consecutive weeks.
3. Demonstrate the proper way to make a bed.
4. Demonstrate the proper way to vacuum a room.
5. Demonstrate how to either wash dishes by hand or rinse them for the dishwasher. Take care of dirty dishes for one whole day.
6. Demonstrate the proper way to sweep a floor and use a dust pan. Sweep at least two rooms.
7. Demonstrate the proper way to mop a floor.
8. Demonstrate how to clean mirrors and windows. Clean at least one of each.

Dolphin (do five requirements including the 2 starred)

- 1.* How important is a clean home? Which chores should be done daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly? If you can't do a chore by yourself, how can you help someone else work on it? Find a daily chore and do it every day for two weeks. Do a weekly chore two weeks in a row and a monthly chore two months in a row.
- 2.* Choose any of the chores in Otters' #3, 4, 6, 7 or 8 and demonstrate that skill. Then do that chore on three separate occasions, trying to be more thorough each time.
3. Demonstrate a sanitary, orderly way to wash dishes. Learn to wash dishes by hand as well as with a dishwasher. Take care of the dirty dishes at your house for at least three days.
4. What equipment and supplies do you need for each of the following household chores? Vacuuming, dusting, sweeping, mopping, scrubbing toilets, scrubbing sinks and tubs, cleaning the oven, washing the dishes, and washing the laundry.
5. Reorganize a closet or cupboard for maximum convenience and storage.
6. Help to give a thorough cleaning to one room in your house.
7. What is the best way to store blankets, rugs, linens, and clothing to protect them from moths, insects, and mold?
8. What are the causes of common household pests and what is the best way to get rid of them?
9. Know the care for floors, curtains, walls, furniture, and rugs. Demonstrate at least two.
10. Look for ways to neaten up your home and make it more attractive such as rearranging furniture, picking up the newspaper or other items laying around, tending the house plants, etc.
11. Sort laundry into white, lights, darks, and delicates. Which temperatures should be used for each? How much detergent should you use?
12. Clean a bathroom in your home and find out what you can do to help keep it clean tidy.

Butterfly (do six requirements including the one starred)

- 1.* How does good housekeeping help to maintain a home? Which chores should be done daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly? With which chores can you help? Which can you do all by yourself, including putting away the equipment? Choose a daily chore to do every day for three weeks, a weekly chore to do three consecutive weeks, a monthly chore to do two consecutive months, and one yearly chore. What is your favorite method of keeping track of which chores are completed?
2. Demonstrate how to clean mirrors and windows. Which works better, a vinegar and water mixture, plain water, or a commercially made product? Which works better, paper towels, newspaper, or a cloth?
3. In addition to demonstrating how to wash dishes by hand or by dishwasher, take care of your family's dishes for five days or teach a younger person how to do it.
4. How often should a mattress be turned and why? Which types of mattresses do not need to be turned? If you

- have a mattress that needs to be turned, help your mom or dad turn it properly.
5. Show how to properly dust books and group them on book shelves for efficient reference and interest.
 6. Clean your refrigerator and replace the contents in the most efficient arrangement for space saving and storage.
 7. Find out how to remove at least two of the following stains: tea, coffee, ink, rust, paint, grass, fruit, or blood.
 8. Know the care needed for floors, curtains, walls, furniture, and rugs. Demonstrate at least two.
 9. If you don't know how to care for laundry yet, learn how to sort it and set the washer for the right temperature and time. Read the labels of at least three different agents used in laundering. Be in charge of sorting and washing at least three loads.
 10. What is the difference between machine washing and dry cleaning? Why do some clothes say "dry clean only?" Why should you dry some clothes flat? Why shouldn't you machine dry an item that says "line dry?"
 11. Clean a bathroom in your home and find out what you can do to help keep it clean and tidy. Be in charge of keeping it clean for a week. Offer a reward to anyone who seems to get the bathroom dirty more than others and is willing to try to help out more.

Eagle (do seven requirements including the one starred)

- 1.* How does cleanliness help to maintain a home? Which chores should be done daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly? Choose a daily chore and be responsible for it for three consecutive weeks. Take care of a weekly chore for four consecutive weeks, a monthly chore for two consecutive months and do one yearly chore. Ask someone who has recently bought a house if cleanliness had anything to do with their choice of a new home or interview a real estate agent to find out how important cleanliness is in the sale of a home. You can also interview a fireman to find out if cleanliness makes his job easier.
2. Choose any of the chores listed in Otters' #3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 and teach someone else how to do the chore. Check up a day or so later and make sure your student is still doing the chore correctly.
3. Learn about the history of housecleaning. How has electricity and wall-to-wall carpeting changed housecleaning? Try an 'older' method of cleaning something, such as scrubbing a floor with a scrub brush or washing several garments by hand.
4. Help a younger person learn to be consistent with her chores. Set up some type of record keeping and offer a reward for completing a set number of days' chores.
5. Help your own family with keeping track of chores. Offer to mark a calendar or make a file system to keep track of weekly, monthly, and yearly chores. Read a book by Emilie Barnes on the subject.
6. Read a book by Don Aslett. Suggest a way that your family could change their habits or home arrangement to make it easier to keep clean. Once you find a change that your family feels is a good idea, help accomplish the change, such as cleaning up a closet, retraining a pet to stay out of the bedrooms, choosing some furniture that doesn't need as much dusting.
7. Research some health conditions that are influenced by cleanliness such as asthma, mold allergies, or emphysema. What would you do differently if someone at your house had one of these ailments? Is there anything your family should do to help prevent one of these conditions? How important is cleanliness after natural disasters? What diseases can be transmitted and health conditions worsened when there isn't proper sanitation? What were the health effects of the Hurricane Katrina clean-up? What does a person do to make contaminated water useable?
8. Investigate the pros and cons of frost-free freezers versus ones that need to be defrosted. Help defrost a full-size freezer. Did the owner of the freezer have everything correctly labeled?
9. Help an elderly or infirm person or a shelter with a week's worth of a daily chore or a day's worth of weekly, monthly, or yearly chores.
10. What is the effect of light on a home's cleanliness and mood? Use a flashlight after your standard cleaning to

check some corners and under some furniture. Bring an extra lamp into a room that has just been cleaned. Do you like what the extra light does for the room?

11. After reviewing the causes of some common household pests, check out ways to get rid of them. How many ways can you find for getting rid of cockroaches, silverfish, ants, spiders, and termites. Which are the least toxic ways?

12. Take a tour of your yard and garage. Is there something you can do to clean up the garage or exterior of your home? Do it. What are some of the reasons for cleaning up the garage or exterior of a home?