



THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

How do you make housecleaning easier?

Snow White's cleaning motto may have been "Whistle while you work," but then she had all those adorable woodland creatures lending her a helping paw. Whom can you turn to? Why, *Real Simple* readers, of course. Thanks to their time-saving strategies and mood-lifting techniques, you're sure to be whistling a new tune. No dishwashing squirrels or dust-busting fawns required.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ELLIE MILLER

"My husband and I cut to the chase with 15-minute power sessions. We set the timer and then we're off—cleaning and straightening as fast as we can. It's amazing how much you can get done."

JULIE KIRKHAM

Bloomington, Minnesota



Methodology

The Zamboni technique: Every night after the kids help pick up their toys and then head off to bed, my husband and I "reset" the house. Like the Zamboni that resurfaces the ice during hockey games, we make a clean sweep through the rooms—reorganizing games and toys, clearing clutter, filing paperwork, and readying the house for a relaxed evening and an orderly start to the next day. This system really helps us keep things under control.

KATE MCLEOD

Newton, Massachusetts

I match a specific chore with a day of the week:

Mondays, bathrooms; Tuesdays, stove and refrigerator; Wednesdays, laundry, etc. This setup allows our family to do a little bit each day and avoid cleaning up one big mess over the weekend.

LAKEISHA ABRAM-BRIDGEMAN

Gary, Indiana