

Housekeeping Systems

I have tried to include a few different housekeeping systems and tell you who I think they might work for — your mileage may vary. Choose one of these, choose a different one you like better, or make your own using the forms in this workbook.

A SLOB COMES CLEAN (\$)

Help for the completely overwhelmed by clutter with no cleaning routines in place. While you can gain insight from listening to her podcasts, I think the quickest and easiest way to get going with her system is to buy her book. It is an easy read.

Pros: Anyone one can do it. She baby steps you through a system in a way much less overwhelming than Flylady. It's a good place to start.

Cons: Her kids go to school and there is a ton in the book about decluttering. You might need this, but don't let decluttering derail you from homeschooling.

Avoid this if: You have simple routines in place already.

Works well for: The overwhelmed who needs a simple system to get clutter and cleaning under control. For example: one of her habits is to sweep the kitchen floor every night — not as much to get the floor clean, but because it forces her to pick up all the clutter from the floor. Clutter like bags of groceries. If this is you, then you need this book. If you can't image a world where someone would come home from the grocery store and not immediately put the food away, then pass.

Links

[Podcast](#)

[Book](#)

ONCE A MONTH HOUSEKEEPING (FREE)

A reasonable amount of clean for a homeschooling family with lower levels of clutter and fair to good organization.

Pros: You only have to clean once a month — kind of.

Cons: That one day is tiring and can't be missed. If you have no one to care for the kids you will have to find ways to entertain them so you can make progress. This is only basic cleaning. You will probably still need a block of time each month or year for deeper "spring" cleaning.

Avoid this if: You like a higher level of clean.

Works well for: People who have someone who can take the kids. People content with "good enough." People who won't get distracted by other projects during the cleaning day and only get half of it done.

Links

[The Case for Once A Month Housekeeping](#)

[How to Clean Your House Once a Month](#)

[A Day in the Life of a Once a Month Cleaner](#)

MOTIVATED MOMS (\$)

A slightly higher level of cleaning and organization broken down into daily tasks. There are multiple printable versions and an app, and the entire system is very affordable.

Pros: You are told exactly what to do — no thinking involved. The list is easy to share with others in your family so they can help. No need for deeper "spring cleaning" days.

Cons: Sometimes the list doesn't make sense for your home or life. The app can be customized to delete tasks and add your own, but the printable planner cannot. I'm looking at this list and working by yourself this can be up to an hour of cleaning each day minus the routines. If you don't customize the list there might be projects in your home that still need to be done periodically.

Avoid this if: You don't like using someone else's system. You can't mark off things that don't apply to you and move on.

Works well for: People who love to be told exactly what to do and when. People who want to stay on top of cleaning routines. Moms with older kids and teens who can choose a chore from the list — then this level of clean becomes really doable.

Links

[Website](#)

HOW JEN DOES IT (FREE)

For moms who want an extremely high level of clean but need help setting up the systems to do it. Once this system is in place I do believe that this will take less and less time, but it will be a few rounds through her system before you get to that place — so you have to be committed to make this work. This will take time and cleaning will need to be a priority for you (nothing wrong with that!). One thing I do love about this is that she breaks her house into more zones than just four (like Flylady). This makes it easier to work in a zone for 15 minutes a day and get a little more done.

Pros: Jen has all the goods (sometimes annoyingly so) — morning and evening routines, weekly cleaning routine, zone cleaning, organization. Everything you need for keeping a really clean home is here to inspire and instruct you.

Cons: She really doesn't have a system for working kids into the routines — you will have to figure out how to do that yourself. Watching a ton of videos can be a time suck.

Avoid this if: You can't stop comparing yourself unfavorably with the lady on the internet who appears to have the perfect life. This level of clean is just not a priority for you.

Works well for: People who are inspired by others who do things well. People starting with a lower amount of clutter. People who can set a timer for 15 minutes and call it good when they are done.

Links

[Morning Routine](#)

[Evening Routine](#)

[Weekly Cleaning Routine](#)

[Zone Cleaning](#)