

# *... in the kitchen*

"When cooking, I always double the recipe and freeze one. This way, I make my family two dinners with half the work."

"I fill the dishwasher as I cook. This prevents an overflowing sink of dirty dishes later."

"I use a crock pot whenever possible. I'm not a particularly good chef, but the crock pot enables me to make spectacular meals that are ready the moment we walk in the door. It's like magic."

"I prep my coffee the night before; this way, the only thing I have to do in the morning is push the button."

"Making one-pot meals really cuts down on the amount of scrubbing I have to do."

"I keep a list of my family's Tried & True recipes (ones that everyone likes and eats) in the front of my recipe book. On days where I have neither the time nor the energy to be creative in the kitchen I go to my list and pick one for dinner." (sign up and I'll happily send you the free printable I use.)

## *... parenting small children*

"I clean my children's plastic toys in the dishwasher. Gentle setting, no detergent. Voila! Sanitized toys."

"Whenever possible, I make a chore into a game for (my three year old). Sorting laundry by color. Weeding. With a positive attitude, the options are endless."

"Two words: Toy Rotation. I also rotate toys with my best mom friends, which keeps my kid perpetually entertained with new toys I didn't buy. My son is usually so entertained by 'new' toys he doesn't even realize some went missing."

"As I'm getting my son ready for bed at night, I do the bathroom routine alongside him. Together we brush our teeth; together we wash our faces."

## *... entertaining*

"Before having guests over, I pick up the house. But I save my energy and time for after the guests leave, because that's when the deep cleaning begins."

"We don't wear shoes in our house, and I politely ask our guests not to, either. This keeps my floors marginally cleaner."

## ... laundry

"I ... reduce the amount of laundry in my home by making my kids re-wear their (clean-ish) pajamas."

"I purchase clothes made with wrinkle-free fabrics whenever possible. For other items I hang up when damp or dry in the dryer. I'll do anything except iron!"

"I really don't bother folding (my preschooler's) clothes anymore. She just messes up her drawers searching for her favorite outfits anyway."

"On Sunday mornings, I strip all the beds and wash the sheets together with our dirty towels in a single load. Then I dry it all in the dryer before hanging putting the same sheets back on the beds and the same towels back on the racks. This saves me a solid ten minutes each week because I'm not folding those pesky fitted sheets."

"My mother taught me to put the family's socks in a mesh bag before throwing them in the machine to keep them from mysteriously disappearing."

"Instead of folding clothes, I roll them. This way I can see everything inside the drawer without shuffling through and messing everything up."

## *... cleaning*

"I keep rags and cleaning supplies in nearly every room of the house. This way when I see something that needs my attention I'm not running all over the house searching for the supplies because they are already within arms' reach."

"I haven't tried this yet, but my friend swears by this trick: She leaves a little bit of toilet bowl cleaner in the bottom of the toilet brush pan to clean the toilets in seconds."

"Use a dryer sheet to clean your baseboards. Just try it, and you'll become a believer, too."

"I used to work at an ice cream shoppe as a teenager and learned a valuable lesson: Clean "top to bottom". There was no sense mopping the floors until after I wiped the sprinkles off the counters. I apply this principle to my home. What's the sense in vacuuming before wiping/dusting everything above it? I wipe the lights and ceiling fans first, then the counters, and finally I tackle the floor."

"I keep a razor in a drawer beside the stove and use it to scrape off dried food from the burners before it dries."

# ... miscellaneous

"If there's a single product that saves me literally hours per week it's this: Dry Shampoo."

"My household is signed up for bill autopay wherever possible."

"I put my family's schedule on a shared calendar earlier this year and now both our calendar and shopping list can be accessed from multiple devices. We're all on the same page without having to discuss it."

"My mother taught me this rule: If you can accomplish a particular task in two minutes or less, just do it now. Planning it for later, remembering to do it, and actually accomplishing the task in the future will take five minutes or more."

"Minimize your belongings. Owning less stuff means you have less stuff to keep track of, less stuff to organize, less stuff to put away, less stuff to find places for."

"Keeping a daily To-Do list keeps me focused. I take it a step further by prioritizing items and listing the most important tasks first, followed by the lesser important ones."

"Making sure everything has its place saves time in the long run because it reduces countless minutes you'd otherwise spend looking for something since you already know where it is or where it should be."

"Amazon's Subscribe and Save program helps me keep my house stocked with the essentials without even thinking about it."