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Stain Extinguisher®
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A Letter to Chem-Dry

all in fun



"Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like shoveling the walk before it stops snowing."

-- Phyllis Diller

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War of the Chores

Squabbles over honey-do lists play out across the country, and they don't stop in the kitchen or laundry room.

With society no longer revolving around clearly defined gender roles, couples must negotiate domestic duties. It's a knotty process because moms and dads typically don't see eye to eye on the junk, clutter, and orange juice stains.

Often, the friction between couples goes back to childhood experiences and lingering social expectations that associate a well-kept home with women's work.

"We feel like to be good moms, we have to have this house flow seamlessly," said Stacy DeBroff, a parenting expert and regular guest on NBC's Today show. "Dishes? Guys think they can wait a couple days. But in the women's mind, 'I can't go to bed until the dishes are done and the laundry is folded and put away.'" While men are stepping up their game and doing more around the house than ever before, women still do the lion's share of housework. A 2004 U.S. Labor Department study found that employed women spent an hour more a day on housework and that working mothers of children 6 and younger spent more than double the time men did on childcare.

Women also shoulder more of what's called "shadow work," like keeping track of who needs new shoes and scheduling doctor's appointments, according to studies.

But for their part, men spend more time at the office — employed men work on average about one extra hour every day during the week, according to the Labor Department.

And experts say in most cases, tensions at home can't be attributed to lazy loafers or whiny wives, but are linked instead to growing demands and stresses on Mom and Dad. But damage is still done: Divvying up chores has developed into one of the five biggies in relationships — up there with money, sex, work, and parenting issues.

While not as weighty as other relationship issues, the cumulative effect of constant bickering over chores can chip away at the core of a relationship — and lead to problems in all the other categories.

"Women feel this huge burden, and they feel like their husbands take them for granted, and men get confused. 'Why is she so upset? This is just as dirty as my dorm room. What's the problem?'" said Dr. Scott Haltzman, an assistant professor of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown University and author of *The Secrets of Happily Married Men*.

Experts say managing household chores doesn't have to



Tips for Keeping Order — and Peace — at Home

- Be specific with your requests for help. "Please load the dishwasher after dinner" is better than "Please clean up after dinner" because everyone has a different definition of cleaning up.
- Devise a plan. Jot down all tasks and determine responsibilities.
- Lower expectations. Don't worry about whether the task gets done your way or to your standards. What's important is that it gets done.
- Relax your standards. Let go of Martha Stewart perfectionism. (Remember that she's divorced.)
- Follow through. Use a day planner or alarm clock to schedule chores.
- Give rewards. Show your spouse that pitching in more offers benefits.
- Say thank you. It feels good to be validated.
- Consider designating one messy/junk area.
- Consider getting a housekeeper twice monthly, if the budget allows.
- If you both hate a chore, take turns every six months.
- Don't fight about chores when you are really irked about something else.
- Forget 50/50. Don't keep a score sheet. There's no such thing as equally sharing home tasks.

escalate into fights or cause hurt feelings. First, couples need to take ownership on some tasks, they say. And then, women must be more relaxed about chaos, and men need to be more deliberate in helping out. (By the way, while there are always exceptions to the rule, chore wars still tend to fall in with traditional roles — with women overwhelmingly the ones more bothered by mess.)

For example, if Dad is in charge of dinner on Tuesdays and it's pizza, Mom shouldn't complain, DeBroff said. "Their ideas may not be the same as yours, but that's one night you don't have to deal with dinner," she said. Haltzman recommends that men, who say they "will get to it in ten minutes," actually set the alarm on their cell phone so they can stick to their word. And Haltzman suggests couples try to use humor when dealing with mess. "Get a laser pointer and walk over and point the laser to the socks instead of saying, 'How many times do I have to tell you to pick up your socks?'"



StainExtinguisher - Carbonated Spot Remover



Quickly and thoroughly remove most stubborn spots from colorfast carpets, upholstery and auto interiors by using Chem-Dry's powerful carbonating process to lift spots to the surface. Stain Extinguisher can also be used as a pre-wash spotter for tough laundry stains.

Whether they are dribbles or disasters, food and beverage stains are part of everybody's life. Before the next one happens to you, read the tips and suggestions we have compiled for you here and some Chem-Dry professional home care products to wipe that stain clean when it inevitably happens. If your carpet has been treated with Chem-Dry's Protectant, then you already have a huge advantage in removing stains.

Stain Removal Tips



1. Act Quickly - The longer the stain is allowed to remain, the more chance it has to set.
2. Know what kind of stain you are working on as well as the type of fabric or surface it is on so you can choose the best product.
3. Remove as much excess stain as you can by blotting, scraping or brushing whatever will come off. **DO NOT** rub it in.
4. Test all fabrics and carpets before cleaning by spraying a small amount of Chem-Dry Stain Extinguisher or Chem-Dry Grease & Oil Extinguisher on a hidden area, blot dry and observe for 10 minutes. Make sure there is not carpet color removal onto the cloth and that, when dry, there is not a visible discoloration in the area you cleaned.
5. Work from the outside edge of the stain to the inside to keep the stain from spreading.
6. Call Chem-Dry for expert spot & stain removal if these efforts do not work.
7. Have a Chem-Dry Professional apply our Powerguard Protector with every cleaning to give you the best chance for removing stains.

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online:

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phone:

1-800-CHEM-DRY



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Dear Chem-Dry:

Amazing! That's the only way I can describe the job you did on my sofa and love seat today. I have never written a testimonial letter in my life, but your service deserved it.

My wife was to the point of replacing the two pieces, which were in good condition except soiled by use. I was looking at spending several thousands of dollars to buy new living room furniture. While they do not look new, they look as well as any three-year-old, light-colored fabric sofa and love seat I have ever seen.

The last minute decision to clean the stairwell was a good one as well. With the dog and I tramping sand and dirt up and the stairs every day, I could not believe you got them looking as good as you did.

Thanks again and you will have all my future carpet cleaning business. I will be sure to tell my friends about your company.

- John Green