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## EC66-2207 Cleaning Supplies....Keep them Handy

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EC 66-2207  
For Physically Limited Homemakers

# CLEANING SUPPLIES

---Keep Them Handy



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# CLEANING SUPPLIES

## --- Keep them handy

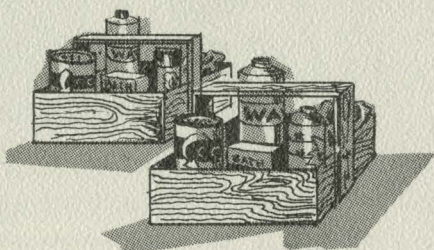
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Associate Dean

Wouldn't you like your cleaning equipment and supplies conveniently organized and ready when and where you need them? Also, safely stored so that broom and dustmop handles do not fall into your traffic lane causing dangerous trips and falls? Here are storage tips for home cleaning equipment and supplies.

Ask yourself these questions. How much space is needed for my equipment and supplies? Where do I use the various supplies and equipment? What is my height and arm reach? These all influence the location, overall size of the storage space, the items to be stored, and the types and placement of shelves, hooks, and areas for storing items.

Location of cleaning supply storage depends on where you use equipment first and where you have available space. Whether or not you should store your laundry supplies and ironing equipment with other cleaning supplies depends on where you do your laundry and ironing. Is it near by?

Many times it is advisable to have duplicate sets of inexpensive, frequently used cleaning supplies for your kitchen and bathroom, or for upstairs and downstairs. This eliminates carrying your sponges, scouring powder, etc., from one area of the house to another. A basket, tote bag, or even a "cleaning apron" with big pockets makes it easy to carry small supplies between areas in the house.





You have access to all parts of your storage area at once if there is a full size opening across the front. Why not spread out your storage space as much as possible, instead of trying to make it small? You can see supplies better and will not have to remove -- or tip over -- the laundry detergent, to get to the furniture polish.

You can conveniently reach often used items like the broom and dustpan if you store them on backs of doors or near the front of the closet. Shelves on door backs improve storage where cabinets already developed are too deep. Store tall, heavy items on the floor. This eliminates lifting and requires minimum effort to slide items out for use.



Items used together should be stored together for convenience. It is easier for you to open one drawer than two or more to get supplies for a single job. You can quickly get ready to iron if your iron, ironing board and distilled water are stored together at the ironing center. Laundry detergent, bleach, water softener and measuring cup belong together near the washing machine.

Items stored between 2 1/2 feet and 5 feet high will be easiest to reach if you normally stand, use crutches or find it difficult to reach high or bend. Store items lower, 1 1/2 feet to 4 feet, if you normally sit.

This storage closet features adjustable height shelves. Lazy Susans and slide out drawers are used on the shelves to make the items stored easy to see, easy to reach and easy to grasp.

A locked area within easy reach is recommended for storage of detergents, ammonia, bleaches, furniture polishes, and window cleaners that could be dangerous if exploring children swallow them.



The closet floor is level with the floor of the room so that the vacuum cleaner stored with wheels down on the floor needs only to be rolled out for use. The ironing board slides into its own slot. The door back provides easy to see and easy to reach hanging storage for long, flat pieces of equipment such as the broom, dustpan, mop and vacuum cleaner wands.

## THINGS TO TRY

A cellulose sponge mop with a lever high on the handle to make it easy to squeeze out excess water.

A long handled dustpan to eliminate bending and stooping.

A short handled broom for sweeping while seated.

A push floor mop when you use your crutches for support, or when it is difficult to swing your arms back and forth.

A floor mop with a flexible handle to get under low furniture.

An adjustable height ironing board with off-center legs -- makes ironing more comfortable when sitting.

A steam, spray, and dry iron to eliminate the job of sprinkling clothes.

A lightweight steam and dry travel iron for easier ironing when arms or hands are weak.

A lightweight plastic or a rubber mop pail.

A dolly on wheels to place a water-filled pail on, thus eliminating carrying.

A holder for vacuum cleaner tools that is attached to your vacuum cleaner top so that tools will be readily available.

Contact your County Extension Agent for other bulletins in this series for homemakers with physical limitations.