

JOBS TO DO IN FRONT OF THE TV

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At the end of a working day probably the last thing you feel like doing is catching up with all the chores. But it doesn't have to FEEL like a chore

Just think how pleased you will feel when you look up and you have clean shoes, shiny handbags and buttons on your shirts!

Set yourself up with the right equipment, put on a movie, or some great music and let your mind wander as you work through these simple tasks

Cleaning boots and shoes

- Gather every item of footwear from all around the house, in the garage or out of the car
- Spread out newspapers or a dustsheet on the floor or on the table
- You will need two damp cloths, newspapers, shoe trees (if you have them), some shoe polishes or special cleaners, a soft duster, a cotton bud, a bowl of warm water, biological washing powder or liquid, notebook and pen, plastic bags for repairs
- Remove shoe laces and soak in a small bowl with a little biological washing powder. Rinse in cold water and dry
- With the damp cloth wipe the edge of the sole and the heel first, removing all the dirt. Rinse the cloth
- Wipe down the smooth surfaces of the shoes and boots with a clean damp cloth. Follow specialist instructions for nubuck or fabric shoes
- Apply polish or use special cleaners
- Jot down repairs, special cleaners or new laces required
- Stuff shoes with newspapers or shoe trees to stretch out the leather as they dry
- Buff all polished surfaces with the soft duster
- Use a damp cotton bud to clean in-between delicate decorations such as beads and jewels on strappy sandals
- Store delicate shoes in shoe boxes or get some beautiful clear plastic storage boxes



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Clothes repairs

How many times have you pulled an item from your wardrobe to find that is unwearable because there is a button missing or a hem down? What a waste! Next time you have a Wardrobe Workout fish out all those items and spend an hour or so repairing them. Just think how much money you will be save by being able to make use of half your wardrobe again!

- If you have lost the button from an item, buy a new set and replace them all, cheaper than buying a new jacket!



Sewing kit (look in supermarkets or DIY stores)

Assorted needles, assorted threads (buy polyester not cotton), pair of small pointed scissors (keep them for sewing only), spare shirt buttons

- Look inside the seams of suits and shirts for the matching spare buttons
- Next time you buy something with a spare button, keep it in one of those little plastic Ziploc bags, write the name of the garment on a Post-it note and put it in the bag and keep it in your sewing kit
- Loose hems and cuffs can be ironed in place using a no-sew tape called Wundaweb Iron on Hem Tape if you are not able to sew Buy from haberdashers or www.mcculloch-wallis.co.uk
- Use a matching thread to sew on buttons, check with the rest of the garment or use the same colour as the button
- Make use of your dry cleaner's repair service. They can sew zips in jeans, repair leather, replace linings and do all sorts of repair jobs that even a keen dressmaker would find difficult
- Wash your hands before you start sewing and always work in a good light. Place a desk lamp on a side table and shine it on your work



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Smartening up your bags

- Use non-alcohol baby wipes to skim the dirt from the surface
- Use shoe cleaners and scuff-covering polishes to add colour
- Always buff with a duster and remove any excess polish to avoid damage to clothes
- Empty all the pockets and zipped compartments out and pick up fluff with a lint roller or piece of sticky tape
- Some fabric bags may need a dry cleaning spot removing fluid to clean damaged areas
- Baskets and plastic woven types may be washed with warm soapy water or wiped with a damp cloth. Look for cleaning instructions inside. If in doubt take them along to the dry cleaners and see if they will do them
- Keep a small pouch purse with money, cards, keys and phone inside. Grab and go when you dash into a shop or petrol station
- Put a small emergency supply in each bag that you use regularly if you are often in a rush – an emery board, tissues and a few one pound coins



Clean up your jewellery

- Always use a specialist cleaner for silver, gold and diamonds
- Use a damp cloth for plastic beads. Buff with silicone polish (Mr Sheen)
- Use an old toothbrush to loosen dirt in crevices. Hold small pieces in a pair of pliers covered in a piece of kitchen towel to avoid scratching
- Replace broken bead threads. The nylon thread can be bought in craft shops, fishing line is also useful. If threads are fraying, stop the ends with a little clear nail varnish



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Get going with these other small jobs on your night in!

- **Save a fortune** and give yourself a regular manicure and pedicure
- **Get together with a (close) friend (or partner)** and give each other a head massage, a back scrub or a face pack
- **Sort your CDs and DVDs** into an order so that you can find them, either alphabetical or by genre (comedy, classic, thriller etc)
- **Make it a pets night** - Groom the cat shampoo the dog, give your hamster some exercise around the sitting room floor, clean out the fish tank
- **Pick out recipes and make a shopping list** for the next supermarket trip
- **Start sifting through your photos**, write a timeline and try to match photos with events and dates. Make a note on the back of each one
- **Go through your magazine pile**, get some friends round and swap or collect them in a carrier bag and put them in the paper recycling bin
- **Treat your houseplants to a makeover**. Trim away dead or yellowing leaves. Wash leaves by placing the plants in the shower and spray lightly with tepid water. Let them dry naturally in a warm room

I hope you are feeling motivated to get on with some of those little jobs while watching your favourite soap or movie. Start with something small like cleaning a pair of shoes or sewing a button on and pretty soon you'll build up a good habit of getting these chore done while you're relaxed and enjoying yourself

One step at a time, you will **make space for life**

Angie

If you are feeling overwhelmed and would like some help to organise your home, your business or your life, contact us at - office@spaceorganising.com or visit the website to find out how we can help over the phone or by email

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