



The Footsteps of a Clean Home (Part II)

By Cynthia Inman aka Ask Cindy

How

www.askcindyhow.com

In one of my last columns, I spoke of what hits my eyes when I walk into a home that sends signals of a less than a “good house keeping seal” of approval. I referenced 5 areas that grab me right away. As promised, I will now add a few more:

6th – When I look around the living, dining and family rooms, my eyes quickly find the small décor pieces, shelf what-knots, wood woven baskets and acrylics that have basically become dust collectors. Many people will say to me “it’s just tough to keep up with that stuff. Well, it’s true – it is tough to keep up with it and basically the only solution that I’m aware of is scheduling and diligence.

7th – Just a slight glance at the glass in the home from the entry door, to glass inserts in china closet cabinets will reveal smudges & streaks that cause one to wonder if they should proceed beyond that point. Unfortunately, when using an incorrect approach, one can make bad matters worse.

8th – In home interiors, one will find wood furniture with intricate design cuts, cabinetry and wood panels in various areas. When these surfaces are allowed to accumulate dust and finger prints, there is an unsightliness that is projected out. Again, this unsightliness can be alleviated with the appropriate cloths and solutions. For instance, there is a popular oil soap that is consistently used by many on wood floors to clean and provide a desired luster effect. I quickly discovered that it was exactly the wrong product to use on wood floors. I’ve found special polyurethane floor care products that work wonders on wood surfaces leaving no film or cloudy haze on the surface.

9th – Of course, rugs and carpets can show challenge and wear quickly when they're not properly maintained. Let me let you in on a tiny secret. Area rugs should be lifted and vacuumed around its edges. Expensive oriental rugs should not be vacuumed with an electric rotating brush. One should use a soft stationary bristle brush instead. Wall to wall carpeting needs a clean vibrating vacuum brush. Rugs with fringes must be hand brushed out. The appearance makes a world of difference. All of this due diligence is the difference between a finished look and an incomplete look.

10th – Finally, always an instant indicator for any home – regardless of appearance, is the air quality of the home. There are times when I've crossed a few thresholds of homes and I wanted to proclaim "Houston – we have a problem". Basically, all smells have a source. Smells that result from an accumulation of dirt and food soils are very different from recent activity. Begin with de-cluttering, changing that overflowing vacuum bag and wet wipe the broom bristles free from dirt accumulation. Starting with a plan, organized movements, clean cloths and tools, you will be well on your way to achieving a clean home and environment. I can only say that generally speaking, if you are able to incorporate the new science of clean, you will see, smell, and feel a visible difference. The items that we covered in this 2-part column have you well on your way to recognize that a change in approach is needed for that superior look after your cleaning effort. Please do read my columns and receive the helpful cleaning tips within.

Stay tuned to my website – www.askcindyhow.com as I will be launching a product and equipment store by January '08 that will feature items that I use to achieve the perfect clean. This month, I'm introducing a series of broadcast videos that will introduce my approach to bathroom, kitchen and living room cleaning done right – www.askcindyhow.com is your house cleaning reference for your new world of clean.

Stay Tuned!

Your friend in the cleaning industry - Cindy