

A HOUSE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE MESSY FAMILY

PRINCIPLES REGARDING HOUSEHOLD UPKEEP,

PERSONAL ARTICLES LEFT LYING AROUND

1. Many people in this family at times find it difficult to remember to tidy up after themselves. Jackets, books, glasses, dishes, papers, sweaters, pizza boxes, you name it, get cluttered around the common areas of the house. Also, often a load of laundry is left in the dryer, so just as you are about to begin the laundry, you have to clean up the last person's clutter. Everybody finds this annoying!
2. There is a simple effective solution. Once in place, pretty soon everybody will remember to tidy up after themselves. It's called **THE BOX ON THE DECK PLAN**. Here's how it goes.
3. Take stuff anywhere in the common areas of the house. Leave it until any time within the hour of arriving in that room. As soon as more than an hour has elapsed, then anyone in the family can deposit the article in the **BOX ON THE BACK DECK** (or balcony, or garage). The box should be big enough to handle suits, jackets, pizza boxes, ash trays, wallets, keys, ties, dirty plates of food, all mixed in together in no particular order.
4. If you are missing anything, maybe you better look there first. If it is dirty, or soiled with cigarette ashes, too bad.
5. Once a month, on the first day of the month, **THE BOX** will go to the dry cleaners for cleaning. If anything of yours is missing, better check **THE BOX** on the last day of the month, just in case.

Other families have used this system, and believe me, **IT WORKS!** Usually it takes about one suit that has to be dry-cleaned to remove spaghetti stains before the message sinks in that family members need to look after their stuff! In a short period of time the family finds that there is less tension and resentment, just occasional good-natured kidding.