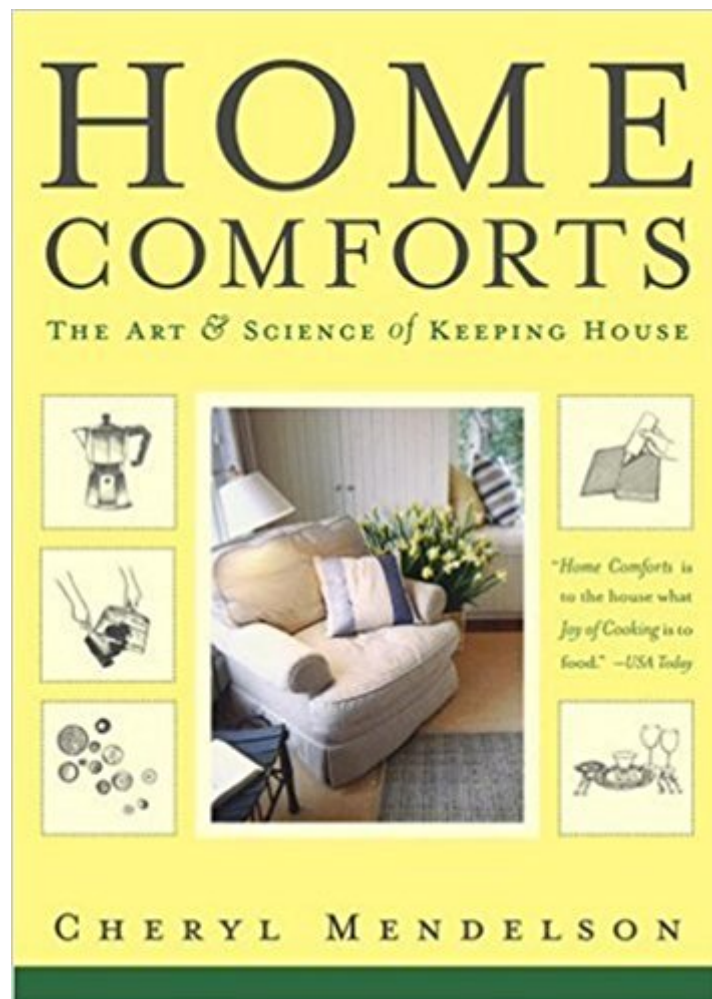




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Home Comforts: The Art And Science Of Keeping House



Synopsis

The classic bestselling resource for every American home. Choosing fabrics, cleaning china, keeping the piano in tune, making a good fire, folding a fitted sheet, setting the dining room table, keeping surfaces free of food pathogens, watering plants, removing stains -- Home Comforts addresses the meanings as well as the methods of hands -- on housekeeping to help you manage everyday chores, find creative solutions to modern domestic dilemmas, and enhance the experience of life at home. Further topics include: Making up a bed with hospital corners, Expert recommendations for safe food storage, Reading care labels (and sometimes carefully disregarding them), Keeping your home free of dust mites and other allergens, Home safety and security, A summary of laws applicable to the home, including privacy, accident liability, contracts, and domestic employees and more in this practical, good-humored, historic, philosophical, even romantic, guidebook to the art of household management.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Virtually everyone enjoys a crisply ironed dress shirt, clean sheets on a well-made bed, and a savory home-cooked meal. Yet housekeeping today stands as a somewhat neglected, if not maligned, job. But as author Cheryl Mendelson points out in Home Comforts, keeping house well can be a rewarding position--it allows you to provide for the physical and emotional comfort of loved ones. It's also not an easy job--there's much to be learned about properly managing a home, and Mendelson has set out to provide a guide to doing just that. Mendelson, a homemaker, lawyer, and

mother, learned about housekeeping from an early age from her grandmothers, one Appalachian, the other Italian. The two grandmothers taught her that although different ways of keeping house can be appropriate, there are generally smarter, faster, and more creative ways of housekeeping that make it less of a chore and more of an art. In a practical, authoritative tone, Mendelson discusses the ins and outs of homemaking, such as washing dishes, recommended cleaning methods for various surfaces, housekeeping for those with pets or allergies, and emergency preparedness and safety procedures. Mendelson's well-researched book includes meticulous sections on food (for example, which foods belong in the fridge versus the pantry, food storage times, picking the freshest fruits and vegetables, and keeping your kitchen and food sanitary) as well as laundry (caring for various fabrics, how to read--and read between the lines of--clothing care labels, and removing stains). Mendelson covers a lot of ground, and as she herself points out, readers shouldn't feel required to do everything mentioned in the book--simply pick the activities that seem appropriate for your particular home. This is a comprehensive reference book that should serve homemakers well and induce a greater appreciation for the effort and specialized knowledge that go into keeping house. --Kris Law --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Unlike the shelves of short-cut manuals for people who don't enjoy housework, Mendelson's comprehensive book is for the person who wants detailed information on every aspect of setting up and maintaining a clean, well-functioning home. Building on the strong domestic skills she learned from her family, Mendelson, a lawyer, did careful research, incorporating current recommendations from experts. There are extensive sections on food, clothing, cleanliness, daily life, and safety, with information on negligence, domestic employment laws, insurance, and even the impact of clothing label laws on our laundry. Preferred methods are explained in detail, and some alternatives are offered for those who need to compromise. This is a valuable tool for today's masses, who aren't learning domestic skills from their elders. Readers with only a cursory interest or those wanting a highly illustrated guide may prefer Reader's Digest's Householder's Survival Manual (1999). Highly recommended. ABonnie Poquette, Shorewood P.L., WI Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Wonderfully written and organized, this book is about more than cleaning house. I wish she would write revisions because of technological changes, e.g. washers and dryers, vacuum cleaners, and the now ubiquitous computers, ipads, and iphones.

Clean, scrub, wash, fold, tidy and repeat! For someone who stays home to take care of the house and kids, at times there arises a severe need for inspiration, to do this again and again and not forget why they chose it in the first place. When I found myself in that spot and noticed how it was badly affecting me, I searched for something to put me back on track and this helped. The fact that the author being a lawyer herself gives priority to her house-keeping first, really made sense to me and kept me inspired because it shows in her writing how simply passionate she is about it. This book reminds me of the loving environment my grandmothers created at home and highlighted the secrets of their coziness. It may not be a direct help to someone who's drowning in a whirlpool of emotional clutter but will definitely help someone who cares about their house, is open-minded about others' suggestions and wants to get better. For others who are just great at what they do it's an excellent reference for very interesting house-keeping related facts that can be cherished by generations.

While the author of this book is not someone I could ever be good friends with, she does seem to be the kind of person I wish I could be more like...the Martha Stewart type with a beautiful, spotless house that can whip up a five course meal with a few odds and ends from the pantry. That said, this book has made a difference in different areas of my housekeeping. For the first time in my life, I am able to effectively insert my comforter into the duvet cover. I know how to clean my woodwork. I am stocking my pantry better than before. I don't believe anyone could do everything in this book...at least I can't and have a life. But doing even a few of the suggestions makes a significant difference. An excellent book to own.

Received this book as a gift several years ago and have since gifted it several times. As a "closet housekeeper", I appreciated Ms. Mendelson's approach and gusto in the topic. Not only is it useful for combatting stains and unruly fabrics, but it is a surprisingly soothing text, reminding me of the dignity and joy that can be found in simple acts of caring for one's home.

I can't even imagine how long it must have taken for her to write this book - she researched everything! It helped me better understand how to make a house a home. I was expecting a book about 200 to 300 pages - this one is 884 pages. So with that you know she goes into a lot of detail... like "Housecraftly Helps for Insomnia" to "Insurance Coverage for Domestic Employees and Workers in your Home" to "Choosing Bath and Hand Towels". Good reading & a good reference

book.

Very thorough book!!! I've personally enjoyed reading this in a novel style and find her voice to be friendly to those in all sorts of home environments. Whether you work outside or within you home.....I'd imagine if you love keeping a cozy home, you'll love this book.

i am not a good housekeeper. I own it, am not proud of it, and would like to improve. This book has made me pay more attention to the details that make up a well maintained home. I'm taking a chapter at a time, and can tell a difference after a few weeks of not much extra effort. My four instead of five star rating is because of the food chapters that are a series of essays on nutrition and meal planning; safe refrigerator and freezer temperatures, and related subjects. These are all taken from USDA pamphlets, readily available for anyone, and seemed to me to be filler. I do love the schedules; the daily, weekly, and monthly chores to be done. I've always been in awe of friends whose spotless homes are available for dropping in, who have the leisure time to be dropped in on, and who don't get stressed about entertaining. Now I see why.

This book will change your life. It really makes you want to maintain a nice home, even if you are a slovenly bachelor like I am -- was. I've bought this book for a lot of people of all different outlooks on life. Some of the women I bought it for initially took offense that I'd get them a book about keeping house and that I was enforcing gender norms, but they actually end up really appreciating it. (IIRC, it's been a while since I read the intro and all, there are a few passages in there about women that made me squirm a bit.) It's also a book that isn't just a how to, but why to. Not just how to make your bed, but why should you make your bed? Without the why, I was forever reluctant to just do it.

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