

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2020 THE ORACLE

EDITOR IN OHIEF Alyssa Stewart

**ADVERTISING SALES** 

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## ESSENTIALS FOR YOUR HOME....PG.12

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**Kennedy Murdock** 

## COVER ART Kennedy Murdock



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HOUSING GUIDE SPRING 2020

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2020 THE ORACLE CHOOSING AN APARTMENT **A SAFETY GUIDE** OFF-CAMPUS SAFET The Dean of Students Office and the Off-Campus Safety Committee encourage you to make safety a priority when choosing an apartment. **DOORS: WHAT TO LOOK FOR** EXTERIOR DOOR TYPES All outside doors are solid core or metal-clad in construction Solid wood or wood core – High • Security If hinges are on the outside, the pins are the non-removable type • Metal-Clad – High Security All outside doors have deadbolt locks • Hollow Core – Poor Security Sliding glass doors have screws in the frame that prevent the doors from being lifted • Sliding Glass – Poor Security up and out of the tracks Sliding glass doors have a secondary security device (Charlie bar or dowl) **EXTERIOR LIGHTING:** WHAT TO LOOK FOR ABOUT STRIKE PLATES Entrances are well-lit A strike plate is found on the doorframe where the lock catches and it should have an extended surface area. The strike plate itself should be embedded Llights turn on automatically in the door's frame and 2 x 4 studs with 3-inch wood screws. at night All lights work properly and are **DOOR LOCK TYPES** protected or placed at a Double Deadbolt - requires a key to operate it from both sides • height that will not allow the casual removal of bulbs Single Deadbolt – requires a key on the exterior and thumb-turn on the inside. • Parking lots are well illuminated The bolts in each of these should have a 1-inch throw into the door jam. LANDSCAPING: WHAT TO LOOK FOR Does the landscaping create "blind spots" which allow someone to stand or crouch unobserved by your window? Shrubs or other plants around the apartment should be trimmed back to allow for a clear view of all windows and doors. These items should be kept less than 2 feet tall or below the lower edge of your window. FENCES AND PARKING AREAS: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

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# Keep it simple when cleaning your home

**By Brittany Loeffler** ULOOP

As a college student, the last thing on your mind is probably cleaning your apartment. When it comes to housekeeping, people can be a little extreme. Either they don't clean at all, or they are scrubbing the floors constantly. It's important to find a balance when it comes to keeping your home clean. If you're too busy studying to clean and want to be efficient when you do have the time, here are some housekeeping tips that will help you along the way.

## Create a Routine

Cleaning routines are a great way tomake sure that your house keeping is top notch. Your house will only stay clean if you are consistent with your chores. You would be surprised at how much dust can gather in just a couple of weeks.

Designate a day of the week that you will spend time cleaning your apartment. It's also useful to schedule a certain amount of time that you will spend cleaning. This will help you from getting distracted while cleaning. To stay organized, make a to-do list with the tasks you would like to accomplish. This will help you stay on track and make sure that everything is done.

## Deep Cleaning vs. Daily Cleaning

There are different levels and methods for housekeeping. It's important to know the difference between a deep cleaning and a simple cleaning. A simple cleaning should be done once a week and involves straightening up, vacuuming, washing the bathroom and dusting. It involves a lot of surface cleaning. A deep cleaning consists of getting into the little crevices in your apartment that you may not think about. This includes dusting your blinds, washing baseboards and windows and dusting out air vents and ceiling fans. A deep cleaning doesn't have to happen very often — once a month would be ideal.

## Stock Up on Cleaning Supplies

When it comes to housekeeping, you'll need some supplies to make sure your home is truly sparkling. You should keep a cabinet or bin stocked with cleaning supplies like dusting spray, bathroom cleaner, glass cleaner, Swiffer pads and whatever else you think you'll need. If you want to save some money or are in a pickle when it comes to housekeeping day, there are some cleaning products that you can make with ingredients right from your kitchen.

Glass Cleaner – For mirrors, windows, and glass surfaces, mix vinegar and distilled water in a spray bottle. For a nice scent, add a few drops of essential oil to the mixture.

Bathroom Cleaner – If you need a quick bathroom cleaner, mix together one cup of vinegar, half a cup of baking soda and hot water and leave in the tub for five minutes. After that, add some more hot water and leave for another five minutes. Drain the tub and rinse.

Makeshift Dust Rag – If you're out of dust rags and you need something quick, grab a pair of fuzzy socks and wipe down the surfaces. Simply throw the socks in the wash and they'll look new again.

## Get Rid of Foul Smells

Have you ever walked into your kitchen and wondered what that



If you need a quick bathroom cleaner, mix together one cup of vinegar, half a cup of baking soda and hot water and leave in the tub for five minutes. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

awful smell was? It's probably your trash can or the garbage disposal. Many people don't think of cleaning these items out. If you do start to smell something foul, there are some home remedies to get rid of it. For a garbage disposal, throw half a lemon and some ice down it and turn it on. For a smelly trash can, you can make your own deodorizing disks to get rid of that nasty smell of old food.

## Set Daily Cleaning Goals

Rather than waiting for the weekend to get your housekeeping chores done, set some daily cleaning

goals for yourself. They can be as simple as making sure all of the dishes are done before you go to sleep and picking up your clothes off the floor every morning. Little tasks like this can really make a difference overall during your busy schedule. A good rule of thumb is that if it will only take a minute or two, don't put it off. You'll feel much better knowing it's done rather than thinking about it all day.

## Do What You Can

While keeping a clean house is important, it shouldn't stress you out. Your parents probably taught you to keep your room clean and set standards for cleanliness. However, if you cannot keep up with their standards, set your own. Clean what you can and do not put pressure on yourself for your housekeeping habits.

If you are too busy to clean, you're probably too busy to think about decorating and furnishing your apartment as well. CORT Furniture Rental takes the stress out of making your home feel like home by bringing you all of the essentials for making your student housing feel comfortable with their furniture.







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# Reduce clutter with storage

**By Alyssa Laffitte** 

As college students, we often don't have the biggest living spaces. Many students live in dorm rooms or tiny apartments. Even if you live in a small space, you can still make the most of your storage. Here are a few ways to maximize your storage in a small space.

Take advantage of the furniture you already have

You likely already have furniture you can use to help you optimize storage in a small space. For example, a dresser set or a wardrobe in the bedroom, or the entertainment set in the living room. These pieces of furniture are the perfect place to store your items, especially clothes, accessories, and shoes (for the bedroom), or your collection of Blu Ray discs (for the living room). To get the most storage out of these items, keep them organized and decluttered. When your storage space is organized, it will be easier to find your items. Using furniture you already have is a great way to optimize your storage in a small space.

Take advantage of "hidden storage spaces" around the room

If you take a look around your room, you might find there are many "hidden storage spaces" in various places. For example, underneath the bed. This is hidden enough that you won't always see it (especially if your bed has a bed skirt), but big enough that you can store a few things there. Use these hidden storage spaces to optimize your storage space in a small room, and, of course, keep it organized.

Opt for "double duty" furniture

There are many pieces of furniture that can be both aesthetically pleasing and functional for storage space. For example, storage ottomans can open up to hold items inside, but they also make a great addition to your room décor). We will call these "double duty" pieces of furniture. If you have a small space, try to use as many of these types of furniture as you can. Using furniture that can also serve as storage is a great way to optimize your storage space in a small room.

Use as much of your closet as you can

Many people don't fully take advantage of the closet space they have. Personally, I know I don't, since I only use the bottom part of my closet. If you want to optimize the storage space you have, you need to use as much of your closet space as you can. You can use organizing shelves or racks to hold your accessories; you can use a double or triple-decker shoe rack to hold your shoes. If you have the same problem I do, buy a step stool so you can reach the top shelf of your closet. All these strategies

will open up more closet space for you and will allow you to optimize your storage.

If you are really tight on space, you will need to use every single storage space you can. Surprisingly, the back of the door can function as storage. If you have many accessories, you can use the back of the door to store these items. A shoe rack for the back of the door is a perfect idea, or use a command strip to hold up your bags. If your room is small, you can use decorative pieces that can help you store items and make the room look bigger.

Clearly, you can still make the most of your small space to be able to store all your items. You simply need to better optimize your storage space.



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# Essentials for your new home

## **By Alicia Geigel** ULOOP

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When you live on your own, there are so many necessities that you might forget to buy or might not have because they are so little.When you lived in your parent's home, all those small items are conveniently in the home, from garage gadgets to weird things under your sink.

Moving into a place, a lot of us don't normally think about the small things first. We normally think about the big, bulky necessary items, like a couch, bed, washing machine/ dryer, etc. Though those items are certainly important, little items that can make your dayto-day life convenient definitely come in handy and shouldn't be looked over.

Here are the top five things you should have under your sink, guaranteed to make your life easier.

1. Extra Sponges: Unless you exclusively use paper or styrofoam plates, sponges are a necessity to have under your sink. Sponges obviously help to clean your dishes and glasses, but sponges are also great to clean your countertops or tough to remove grime on your stovetop. If you wash dishes frequently, sponges can get nasty pretty quickly, so stocking up on extras is a smart move. 2. A Multipurpose Cleaner: Let's face it, kitchens just by their nature get dirty. You're cooking food, preparing meals and assembling lunches which can sometimes end in a total mess. After the day is over, you don't want to be left with a kitchen riddled with crumbs, dirt and leftover food. A multipurpose cleaner is perfect to disinfect and wipe away all the mess of the day.

3. Essential Oils: Essential oils aren't just good for putting in a diffuser, they're also great for a number of other purposes, such as getting rid of annoying bugs that may be invading your home. John Mease, a home inspector in Atlanta noted in an



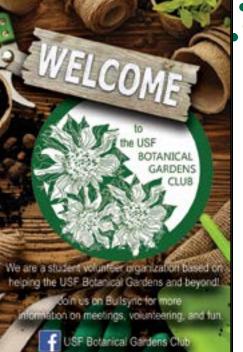
A plastic bucket is a great multi-use item that can function as a storage container as well as something to catch a leak under your sink.**SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE** 

article by Lambeth Hochwald, "If mice and bugs are a constant bother, try placing essential oils such as lavender and cedar or bug-repelling plants such as mint around the house to discourage these annoying pests n See ESSENTIALS on PAGE 13



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**ESSENTIALS** Continued from PAGE 12

from entering your space. Sure, vinegar helps, too, but it doesn't smell nearly as good."

4. A Magic Eraser: I don't know what exactly is in these special white sponges, but they are seriously nothing short of magic. Magic erasers are known to get even the most stubborn or difficult of stains off with little to no effort. When accidents happen, a magic eraser is always there to clean it up.

5. Drain-O: Our sinks can't run perfectly forever. Every once in a while we'll run into a problem with our sink draining properly. When the food gets clogged up in the drain and the water doesn't go down, Drain-O is your friend. Something great to have under your sink.

6. Garbage Bags: Sometimes there are those weird items that you don't have a space for. Garbage bags are definitely those

items. You might have a garbage can under your sink, or you might have one elsewhere in your kitchen, regardless, your garbage bags can be out of the way under your sink and available when you need to use them.

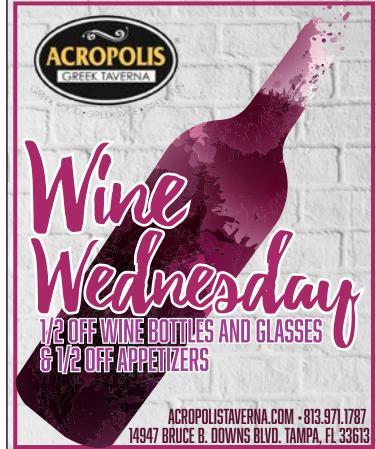
7. Mini Tool Kit: Whenever a problem arises, the greatest frustration most of the time is not fixing it, but finding where your tools are. A mini tool kit has all of the tools you need to solve those simple, everyday problems like a screwdriver, scissors, pliers, a wrench and a hammer which can make tackling that problem much less stressful.

8. Cleaning Gloves: Getting down and dirty with your hands doesn't feel the greatest, which is why cleaning gloves are your friend. They keep your hands protected from gross grime and are easily replaceable once they've reached their end. One of those little, but useful, underthe-sink items.

9. Plastic Bucket: A plastic bucket is a great multi-use item that can function as a storage container as well as something to catch a leak under your sink.

10. Dish Soap: An obvious but important item to have under your sink, dish soap is useful for cleaning your dishes, pans and also cleaning surfaces when your spray cleaner can't do the trick. Melissa Maker of Clean My Space writes, "Any time 'warm, soapy water' is called for, this is what you want to use. A small squirt goes a long way. Not only does it cut grease, it removes surface dirt and won't harm or stain delicate surfaces."

Sometimes a lot of our problems can be solved by only the simplest of solutions. When moving into your new space, you are bound to forget some of the important essentials, but that doesn't mean you'll never get them.



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