

HOUSEWORK IS HARD!

HOW TO

① Wipe the kitchen counters

Note: Working one section at a time is easiest if the counters are not totally empty like ours. Treat the island as one section, the counter under the microwave as another, the area near the toaster as a third, and the counters under the windows as the fourth.

1. First, put away any items on the counter that have obvious places to go. *This includes clean dishes going into their respective cupboards, bags of chips or boxes of cereal back into the pantry, and dirty dishes into the dishwasher (if it is dirty) or sink (if dishwasher is clean.) Personal items belonging to other family members may be placed at the respective person's place at the breakfast table.*
2. Next, remove¹ any large items like the fruit bowl or the toaster that cover lots of dust and dirt.
3. Using both hands—wear gloves, or use a brush and mini dustpan if that feels gross—sweep loose, large crumbs off of the counter and into your palm. Carry the crumbs to the compost bin for disposal. **If you sweep or spill crumbs onto the floor, you must also vacuum the kitchen to consider this job done!**
4. Use Red Juice² on a clean rag to wipe every exposed surface of the counter. Remember to wipe the front edge of the counter, too, and use the rag to wipe under the edge's lip where there's an overhang. *Pay particular attention to the edge of the counter in front of the sink.*
5. The narrow lip of counter and flat stainless steel around the sink bowls are part of the counter and should be wiped. This area is often soapy and may require an additional clean rag to absorb it all. *You don't need to clean down inside the sink basins, however, unless you are also assigned to clean sinks.*
6. If you encounter a sticky spot on the edge of the counter, check the front of the cabinet below and wipe any drips there, too.
7. If you encounter a very thick sticky spot, spray it liberally with Red Juice and leave it to soak in. Move on to the next section, then come back to this spot after the rest of the job is done. *If stains are still stuck on, tell Mom a scraper is required and she'll attend to the problem.*
8. Return items that belong on the counter to their usual places.

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE WIPED THE KITCHEN COUNTERS, AND YOUR MOTHER THANKS YOU.

¹ You could also shift these items to one side, clean beneath, then shift them back to finish the section.

² Red Juice is a non-toxic "all purpose" spray cleaner that doesn't require rinsing. Equivalent commercial products include Simple Green or Formula 409.