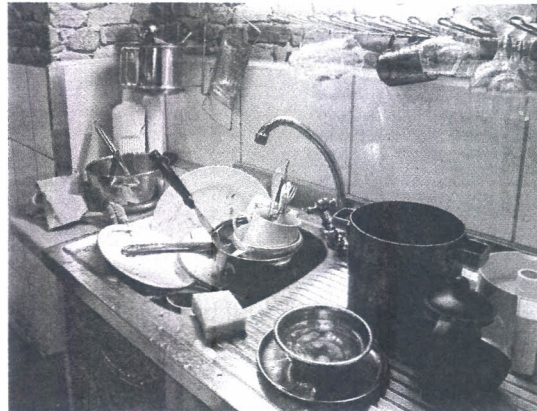


Cinderella and Her Odious Household Chores

1 Almost everyone knows how the story of Cinderella ends, but do people actually think about how she spent her days before she met the prince? Her daily **routine** was not glamorous. She did everything from sweeping the floors to cooking the meals. If someone had asked Cinderella which chores she did not particularly like, she probably would have answered, "Why, none, of course. Housework is my duty!" In today's increasingly busy society, however, most people admit that they have definite dislikes for certain household chores. The top three of these unpopular tasks often include ironing clothes, washing dishes, and cleaning the bathroom.



2 One of the most hated chores for many people is ironing clothes because it is not a task that can be completed quickly or thoughtlessly. Each piece of clothing must be handled individually, so ironing a basket of laundry can take hours! After ironing a piece of clothing **meticulously**, which **entails** smoothing out the fabric, following the seams, and getting the creases just right, it needs to be put on a hanger as soon as possible. If not, this item might become **wrinkled** and need to be ironed again. Perhaps the reason that ironing is not a favorite chore is that it requires extreme attention to detail from beginning to end.

3 Another household chore that many people dislike is washing dishes. Of course, some people claim that this chore is no longer a problem because dishwashers are available now! However, no one would argue that dishes, **silverware**, and especially pots and pans washed in a dishwasher come out as clean as they do when washed by hand. For this reason, many people continue to wash their dishes by hand, but they are not necessarily happy doing it. Washing dishes is a dirty job that requires not only **elbow grease** to scrape food off the dishes but also patience to rinse and dry them. In addition, unlike ironing clothes, washing dishes is a chore that usually must be done every day. Regardless of how Cinderella felt about this particular chore, it is obvious that most people do not enjoy doing it.

4 Although ironing clothes and washing dishes are not the most pleasant household chores, perhaps the most **dreaded** chore is cleaning the bathroom. This task involves **tackling** three main areas: the bathtub, sink, and toilet. Because the bathroom is full of germs, a quick wiping of the surfaces is often not enough. As a result, strong bathroom cleansers are necessary to clean and **disinfect** this room. The task of cleaning the bathroom is so unpleasant that some people wear rubber gloves when they attempt it. The only positive point about cleaning the bathroom is that it does not have to be done on a daily basis.

odious: very unpleasant

household: referring to the house

a chore: a specific task or job, usually done in the home

a routine: a set of actions done regularly

meticulously: thoroughly and carefully

entail: to include

wrinkled: having an unwanted line or crease

silverware: eating utensils, such as forks, knives, and spoons

elbow grease: physical strength, usually using the hands

dreaded: feared

tackle: to undertake, begin

disinfect: to purify, eliminate germs