

Kimberly Blaker
P.O. Box 5585
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 397-3510
info@KimberlyBlaker.com

Word Count 620
Copyright 1998 by Kimberly Blaker

“How to be a Perfectionist”

For the “Type-A” Wanna-be

By Kimberly Blaker

Do you suffer from an enjoyable life? If so, I have the solution for you; become a perfectionist. The key to perfectionism isn't to have perfection in just one area of your life or for only a brief period. You must be perfect in every aspect, all of the time.

Look around, and you'll find many things worthy of perfection.

To begin, compile a list of no fewer than a hundred nuisances, and you'll be off to a great start.

The following are some perfectionist musts that you won't want to overlook.

First, it's imperative that you panic if someone folds washcloths with the tags sticking out or if a towel is hung in the opposite direction of the others.

If a short-sleeved shirt is hung in the midst of the long-sleeved shirts, move it immediately, before you lose control.

Freak, if the bed is made with the pillows on top, rather than underneath the comforter, and especially when the kids put forks on the wrong side of the plates.

If you notice a few blades of grass that weren't swept off the driveway as you're running late for work, don't wait 'til you return home. Sweep them immediately!

Now that you've formed your basics for perfection, you're ready to begin even more worthy tasks.

Every drawer, cupboard, and closet in your home should be ransacked and reorganized on a monthly basis. While doing so, throw out any items that haven't rendered themselves useful in the last month to eliminate clutter.

You may say to yourself, “but I might use this in a couple of months.”

But, “might” is the key word. If you might, you also might *not*. Therefore, you *might* be wasting valuable space.

It's also mandatory that carpets be shampooed every three months. So, it would be wise to invest in a carpet shampooer to prevent the urge of pushing it to four. Of course, if you have the true knack for perfectionism, that urge will never overcome you.

A true perfectionist will lie awake at night planning the next month's activities and won't fall asleep until the schedule for the upcoming week has been memorized. Although a perfectionist would already have this written down, there's always the uneasy thought of the one-in-a-million chance of forgetting to check your planner—which, to a perfectionist, is catastrophic.

Once your schedule is memorized, you can finally fall asleep. But don't forget to set your internal alarm so you wake early on Sunday to get a head start for the week, just in case something urgent comes up—like the discovery of a cobweb in your closet.

For the true type-A personality, vacation time is an incredibly anxiety provoking experience, at best. Knowing you’ll be away for several days, you should feel the impending doom that your household and office may fall apart if you leave.

Cancel your vacation, and do your best to explain to your family the necessity of staying home to apply a fresh coat of paint to the house, and to de-weed the yard.

Finally, when you’re completely caught up and have that overwhelming feeling of joy—which for a perfectionist quickly turns to panic—head to the library; it’s time to find new areas of your life to perfect.

Select a topic, check out every book available, and then spend every spare moment absorbing the new material. While doing so, compile lists (the lifeline of a perfectionist) in order to achieve perfection in that area of life. When you feel you’ve accomplished your goals *perfectly*, simply move on to another worthy obsession.

If you follow these steps, rest assured that you’ll be a truly gifted perfectionist—with a truly most *imperfect* life.

The End

PULL QUOTE: Knowing you’ll be away for several days, you should feel the impending doom that your household and office may fall apart if you leave.

PULL QUOTE: Every drawer, cupboard, and closet in your home should be ransacked and reorganized on a monthly basis.

Kimberly Blaker of Michigan is a mother of two. Kimberly is an author and syndicated writer and has appeared in more than 100 parenting and women's magazines.

NOTICE: PUBLICATION OF THIS ARTICLE WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT CONSTITUTES COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT. RECEIPT OF THIS MANUSCRIPT DOES NOT IMPLY CONSENT TO PUBLISH. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUBLISH THIS ARTICLE, CONTACT KIMBERLY BLAKER, ABOVE. Fees for publication are based upon article length, type of publication, and area of distribution. Thank you for considering this article!