



BE GUEST-READY

How to do less panic-cleaning and actually enjoy entertaining and having people over.

We love getting to know other cultures and their traditions. It's also an opportunity to learn about new ways of doing things. In Iran, it's customary to regularly visit friends and relatives as a way of showing respect. To show gratitude for your efforts and thoughtfulness, they return the favour and visit you, usually within a few days. An article in Homes and Gardens outlines this cultural practice known as '*Dido-baazdid*' which translates to 'seen-seen again'. Since people are dropping in quite frequently, having your home always "guest-ready" is not only nice to do, it's essential.

How to maintain a tidy presentable home without running around at the last minute like a crazy person? Read on for tips on how to always be ready for unexpected guests.

- Keep entrances tidy by storing coats and shoes so guests always have somewhere to put theirs.
- In public spaces of your home (and really, all rooms in your home), be mindful of clutter and reduce the number of things sitting out – put items where they belong.
- If your coffee and dining tables also serve as craft tables or an office desk, put items away when done to keep them clear of clutter.
- Stay on top of messes and clutter in real time by tidying in smaller bursts on a regular basis. Putting things where they belong right away rather than leaving it for later or someone else. These are skills everyone in the family can learn and kids will take with them when they move out.
- Wash dishes or load the dishwasher as soon as the meal is done. If the dishwasher is ready to be loaded (ie the clean dishes are put away) *before* cooking a meal, then there is always a place to put the dirty dishes and utensils. No need to place them in the sink and then have to empty the sink. By emptying the dishwasher first, it helps to keep the sink and counters clear.
- Shut the doors to the rooms that are not quite ready for prime time. You may not be able to tidy up every room on short notice, so focus on areas where guests will be, including a bathroom or powder room.

By incorporating these habits into your daily routine, you'll have less last-minute panic-cleaning, and really, even if you don't entertain visitors frequently, who doesn't love a neat and welcoming home?

[Read the full article here](#)

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— RADHIKA MUNDRA ”



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