

## How To Be A Good Housewife In The Modern Era

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The term *housewife* has come to have a negative connotation in the 21st century. Whether this is a result of less than accurate reality television, the prominence of feminism in current times, or some other idealization that being a housewife is no longer relevant, it is a job that has the opposite stigma than it did in the past. Women in the 1930s were expected to be housewives - the idea of a woman leaving home to work was frowned upon. However, now that we are nearing 2020, not only had the role of a housewife gone away nearly completely, but it has started to make a comeback.

While housewives or stay at home, moms are becoming common again, it is not the same situation as women lived back in the early to mid-1900s. The differences between the two will shine some light on how to be a good housewife in the modern era. It will also allow you to set some expectations for yourself and your marriage, so that knowing who is supposed to be doing which tasks does not become a marital concern. Communicating these kinds of expectations in a marriage is the best way to [avoid issues in your relationship](#) early on.

### Expectations Of A Housewife

You might be wondering how different the duties of a modern era housewife might be from those of a housewife of the past. How much could the everyday tasks within the home change - cleaning, cooking, and keeping the children entertained seem to be the basics no matter what year it is. If you have a social media presence, you might have seen how different those tasks can be when the excerpt from a 1950s home economics textbook made its rounds online. The duties outlined in the textbook were enough to make most women roll their eyes.

By understanding what it takes to be a modern housewife, you will get a grasp on some of what previous women experienced in the role. However, some of the specific tasks have changed with the times. Identifying those changes might help to make you a quality housewife in the 21st century. It will also help you to decide the kind of housewife you desire to be.

### Clean The House

A housewife in the modern era is one that doesn't necessarily share any of the chores with her husband. While the man is holding a full-time job outside of the house, the woman is holding a full-time job within the house. This means that a housewife is responsible for laundry, dusting, vacuuming, sweeping the floors, doing the dishes, and cleaning up any clutter or toys left around the house. While it depends on the specific household, many housewives do some of these tasks daily (such as laundry) and others weekly (like dusting).

A recent study shows that, on average, women spend [17 hours a week](#) doing housework. A woman that is married with more than three children typically spends 28 hours a week accomplishing the same tasks. More kids mean more laundry, dishes, and messes in general, so a mother to several children will stay far busier as a housewife. With the baby boomer generation being born in the late 1940s to early 1960s, many households had more than three children. However, in the past, women spend more time on housework.

It would be logical to think that modern technology has helped to cut down on those many hours of housework. The housewives of the past did not have robot vacuums, dishwashers, or high capacity washing machines. While the innovations used in the modern era have saved time and energy for homemakers, some things have not been made far simpler.

### Serving Meals

Like past housewives, modern-day housewives are usually responsible for meals. While there are some services available today that were not available years ago, like meal subscription boxes, it is still up to the housewife to cook the food. How does this differ from housewives in the past? Meal planning in the 21st century has become a whole other entity. There were far fewer options in the past, and the cost of healthy food was far less, even considering the increase in wages and cost of living overall.

Because of the cost of healthy options, many housewives are forced to pick and choose between cost and quality. This might mean making one or two low costs, unhealthy meals for the week and a handful of pricier, but healthier meals. With the planning involved in the modern era, most housewives spend far more time preparing for meals than they did in previous years.

A good homemaker in the modern era will have the meals planned out before going grocery shopping. This way, she can control the grocery budget and be fully prepared to cook the meals throughout the week. By doing this, a housewife will also have the ability to estimate the time needed to prepare dinner, thus allowing her to create the most productive schedule. A schedule is a key aspect of maintaining the home and other aspects of being a housewife.

### **Taking Care Of The Kids**

No matter the era, a housewife is responsible for taking care of the children. While Dad is at work, she must care for her children. This usually means ensuring that they are fed, bathed, teeth and hair have been brushed, they are dressed, and they have structured activities throughout the day. Although some housewives of the 21st century fall into the trap of [plopping their children in front of the television](#), a good homemaker will organize a variety of activities and play dates with other children.

When the children are school-aged, a housewife is typically responsible for making lunches and ensuring that they are prepared for school, extracurriculars, and taking them to and picking them up from school or their activities. It also often requires that mom play the role of guidance counselor or therapist.

Although housewives were responsible for keeping children away from Dad in the past so that he could relax after work, parenting in the modern era is much more of a team effort. Today's housewife communicates with her husband and does not do the parenting alone. Although her husband might be tired from a long day at work, a good housewife will also be tired from a long day of caring for the house and kids.

### **Spend One On One Time With Your Husband**

A big difference between previous housewives and today's housewives is the interaction that occurs between husband and wife. The 1950s home economics textbook that was previously mentioned instructs future housewives to allow their husbands to relax in the bedroom and let him have quiet time when he returns home from work. It also says that the wife should not pile her problems on him, as he should be able to unload his problems on you. While this was the way back in 1950, being a housewife has changed dramatically in this area.

Married couples in the modern era tend to do better with more communication between the two. Although a man should be able to talk to his wife about his problems and concerns, a wife should be able to do the same with her husband. By ensuring that communication between man and wife is open and honest, being a housewife is a role that is more appreciated by both parties.

When the focus is placed solely on one person in the relationship, the relationship can easily become one-sided. However, by being a housewife in the modern era, men are more enlightened in how much work their wives do at home. The one on one time that couples share at the end of both of their days allows them to regroup as a team and understand what is going on in one another's separate lives.

### **Being A Good Housewife In Today's World**

Times have changed. For a while, that meant being a housewife was uncommon. Those that were housewives were looked down upon. Fortunately, it is becoming a far better situation for mothers to stay home with their children or wives to stay home to keep up with the house. With the cost of daycare these days, it is the best option for many families. If you find yourself being a housewife in the modern era, following the above mentioned suggestions will make you a good one!

Remember, being a good housewife in this century means keeping the house clean, the kids fed and entertained, making well-rounded meals, and maintaining a relationship with your spouse. By placing proper emphasis on each of these categories, a housewife is sure to succeed in her journey in the home. If you feel as though reverting to the 1950 standards of a housewife would better work for you and your relationship, that is okay, too. Find a structure that works for you and stick with it!

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