

8 of the Most Life-Changing Cleaning Lessons We Learned This Year



By **Katie Holdefehr** December 12, 2018

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Every year, *Real Simple* editors learn dozens of new cleaning tips and tricks and try out many new cleaning products and gadgets. Some don't make the cut, others work just fine but we wouldn't necessarily adopt them ourselves, and some are so noteworthy we can't help but add them to our own home [cleaning routines](#). Below, we've rounded up eight of the best cleaning lessons of 2018 that we'll definitely be taking with us into the New Year. From the trick to making dishwashing more tolerable (stress-reducing, in fact!) to the right way to clean [white leather booties](#), here are the top cleaning lessons of the year.

8 We Started Tossing Out Our Toilet Brushes

When we asked John Cohen, the vice president of the house cleaning service [Molly Maid](#), how often we should be [cleaning or tossing](#) our toilet bowl brushes, we learned we're not replacing ours often enough. Even if you clean the brush regularly with bleach, you should still buy a new one once per year. And if you don't clean it regularly, it's a smart idea to replace it every six months. Replacing your toilet brush every January isn't exactly a glamorous New Year's resolution, but it will keep your home cleaner.